

Gay Community News

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Photo by Doug Hinckle from a video by Yayo Grassi



Videocam captures cop violence

Riot police descend on drag queens; activists accuse police of committing "bias crime"

By Jacob Smith Yang

WASHINGTON—Wielding billy clubs, shoving people and barking anti-gay epithets, a squadron of police in full riot gear descended upon an orderly annual gathering of Halloween celebrants—arresting four gay men—Oct. 31. Outraged gay and lesbian community activists say the incident is an example of the continuing problem of homophobia on the part of the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Police and have demanded a full investigation, disciplinary action for those responsible, an apology and increased police sensitivity training.

Tracey Conaty, co-chair of the District's Gay and Lesbians Opposing Violence (GLOV) told *GCN*, "We are calling this a bias crime on the part of the police." She added, "If these officers cannot abide by laws protecting gay men and lesbians, how can we can we rely on them to enforce them?"

'...whatever you are'

In contrast to previous years' celebrations that drew large, exuberant crowds and gay bar-sponsored drag contests, this year's Halloween on 17th Street had a subdued air of celebration, attracting a community gathering of approximately 800 people by midnight.

One celebrant, area resident Michael Spinar, noted the quiet presence of Third District police officers on motorcycles flanking the street, ensuring that crowds did not

spill over from the sidewalk. Witnesses said that their overriding concern, rather than crowd control, seemed to be the safety of 17th Street celebrants.

Around midnight police officers in riot gear, marching six abreast down Q Street, arrived at the 17th Street intersection. Spinar said that the newly arrived police began pushing people on the sidewalk from both sides, for no apparent reason. Other witnesses corroborated that there was no announcement to disperse or reason given for the sudden arrival of the riot police.

"Police in riot gear kept coming and coming in droves," said Carla Darby, a witness who also serves on Mayor Sharon Pratt Dixon's Advisory Committee on Gay and Lesbian Concerns. "They blocked the sidewalk, pushed people against each other and into railings, causing them to fall."

Other witnesses heard officers refer to people on the sidewalk as "men, ladies or whatever you are." GLOV's Conaty confirmed that numerous witnesses heard police calling people "fags" and "queers." One person reported that same sex-couples were being harassed and shoved more than people of the opposite sex who seemed to be together.

Spinar reported that he saw people being hit with billy clubs. When he tried to follow his companions off the sidewalk and into a nearby bar, a police officer stopped him, saying, "You are never allowed to walk in front of a police officer." Spinar explained that he

was trying to cooperate with the apparent wish of the police by getting off the sidewalk; at that point the officer directed her colleagues to "arrest that one." Somewhere between eight and 10 officers surrounded Spinar, handcuffed him and marched to an awaiting paddy wagon.

"I was shocked that I had been randomly picked off the street and arrested," Spinar told *GCN*. "It was somewhat humiliating to be handcuffed and paraded down the center of the street like some kind of example."

Also arrested was Dan Reichart. Police with billy clubs pushed the crowd, including Reichart, into an iron railing. "There's no place to go, asshole," he yelled. One officer then yanked Reichart by his shirt, ripping buttons off his collar and shirt front. Reichart said he was shoved to the sidewalk, injuring his forehead, as others pinned down his arms, shoulders and ankles.

At 3:00 a.m. friends finally found Spinar at the District 3 Police Station. He, Reichart and the others were offered the opportunity to pay \$25 and be released. Both Reichart and Spinar specifically asked if payment constituted an admission of guilt. They were told no, and therefore paid the \$25. Only the next day, when their lawyers called the police, did they discover that the charge against them was "disorderly conduct" and that they had forfeited their right to be heard by a judge by

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Pro-choicers oust Operation Rescue

By Dawn Schmitz

BOSTON—The long-anticipated "flame of Wichita" that Operation Rescue had planned to bring to Boston Nov. 2 was snuffed out, according to pro-choice activists. Having announced for weeks that it would blockade and shut down abortion clinics in the Boston area, Operation Rescue instead retreated to Rhode Island when more than 2500 pro-choice supporters turned out to protect access to four clinics in Boston and adjacent Brookline.

"I don't know that we've seen the end of Operation Rescue, but I know that they don't feel very comfortable coming here any more," said Ellen Convisser, the president of Massachusetts (National Organization for Women) NOW. "We've set a precedent for the rest of the country."

Pro-choice activists showed up at the clinics to prevent members of Operation Rescue from blocking women's access to them. Activists also said they were there to hold police accountable for enforcing a state injunction, made permanent in October, that forbade members of Operation Rescue from blocking access to the clinics or harassing women attempting to enter them. Violators of the injunction can face a mandated fine of \$5000, a prison term of two and one-half years or both.

Invoking the the name of the Kansas city in which Operation Rescue held massive clinic blockades this summer, the group had vowed in its literature to "bring the flame of Wichita to Boston." But Convisser asserted, "They not only didn't bring it to Boston, they didn't bring it anywhere in Massachusetts and they really didn't bring it to Cranston, Rhode Island."

Convisser said she and other NOW organizers saw members of Operation Rescue drive by Boston-area clinics "looking for a place to land" but finally left the city after finding the clinics well-protected by police and pro-choice activists. Members of Operation Rescue then made the 45-minute trip to Cranston in order to blockade the Women's Medical Center of Rhode Island. According to police, more than 90 Operation Rescue members were arrested by 9 a.m. A few members of the group locked themselves to the clinic doors, one with a Kryptonite bicycle lock fastened around his neck. According to pro-choice organizers, however, all clinic appointments were kept.

Hundreds of pro-choice activists from Massachusetts arrived at the clinic in Cranston by 9 a.m. after learning Operation Rescue had relocated their protest. Within two hours, a spirited rally of more than 1200 pro-choice activists had built up on the sidewalk across from the clinic.

Police, who were apparently nervous that pro-choice activists would clash with the estimated 300 members of Operation Rescue picketing on the sidewalk in front of the clinic, lined police cruisers bumper-to-bumper down the middle of the road for two blocks. However, an estimated one dozen pro-choice supporters protested on the clinic side of the street, in the midst of the Operation Rescue picket.

Police harass pro-choicers

"I feel like the police are trying to keep [Operation Rescue's] message going while silencing ours," said Karen Dobak, a pro-choice activist from Cambridge, Mass., who had been picketing on the clinic side. Chanting, "The whole world is watching,"

Continued on page 3

We can save GCN

\$50,000 is needed for GCN to survive, and \$25,000 must come in before December 1.

In July, GCN put a plea for money in the letters pages.

Since then, we have been asking in these pages for reader support, and the contributions sent in have enabled us to continue publication over the past three months, as well as arrange payment plans with some of our creditors. Still, we have only raised a portion of the money needed to put the paper on sound financial footing. Each week, we struggle to meet our budget for producing the paper.

This goal is reachable if everyone becomes involved.

To illustrate our need and keep you aware of our progress, this thermometer will run in the paper each week until we reach our goal.

Take this thermometer seriously!

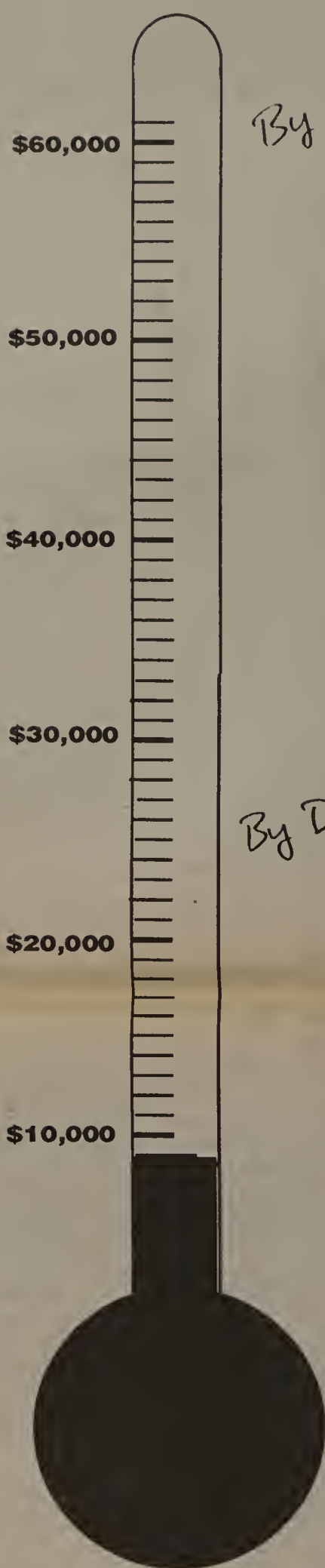
If we do not reach our goal by December 1st, we will not publish a paper the following week.

Please don't wait until it's too late.

A number of gay & lesbian publications have failed in the past year. Can we afford to lose GCN, one of the few remaining forums for our voices?

We can save GCN.

The Staff and Board are acting to improve the financial situation of GCN and enact structural changes have been made to increase financial accountability and strengthen the organization. We have pared down our budget to survive the recession. But we can't do it alone. Please give what you can today.



*Help us get the word out!

Consider hosting a party to benefit GCN. Help us by sending proceeds and attracting new subscribers. We'll help plan your party by sending a "GCN House Party Kit: with invitations and copies of GCN for all your guests.

Write or call Laura at GCN.

See page 5 for more details about our November 22 benefit at Club Cabaret.

☐ Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of \$ _____

☐ Bill my credit card for my gift of \$ _____

Please complete credit card information below

☐ VISA

☐ MASTERCARD

Acct. No. _____ Exp. date _____

Signature _____

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☐ In addition, I will give \$ _____ in December

☐ Send reminder ☐ Bill my credit card

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* The GCN House Party Kit

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at least \$120, paid in ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 installments
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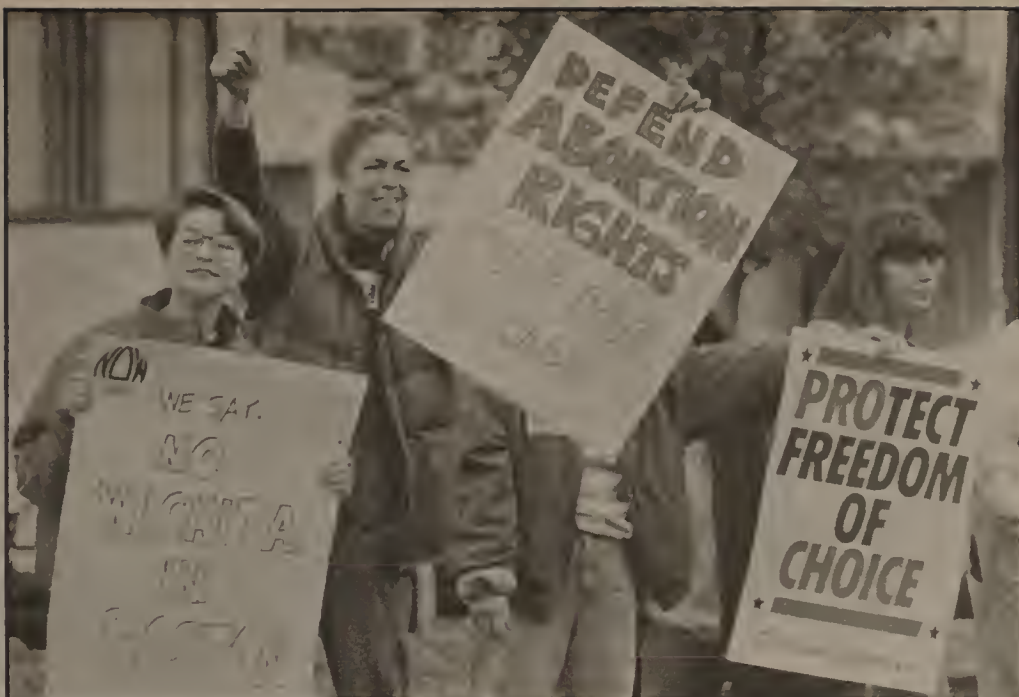
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62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116

Campy Castro

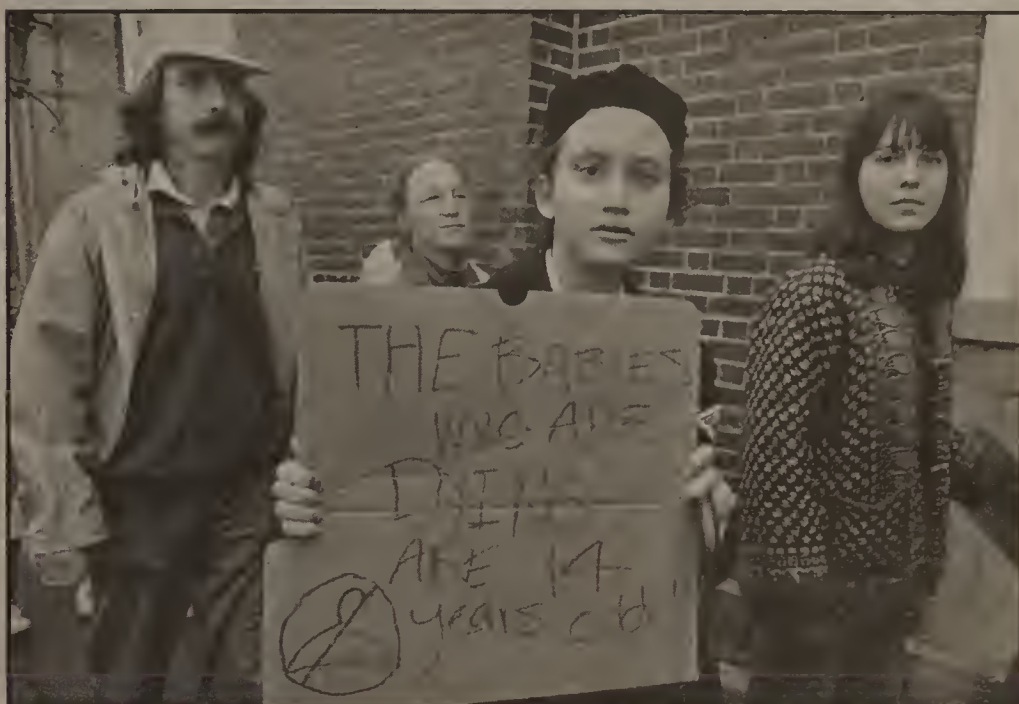
Halloween in San Francisco brings out the annual onslaught of scary monsters and super queens



Halloween Photos by Marc Geller



MARILYN HUMPHRIES



MARILYN HUMPHRIES

Pro-choice

Continued from page 1

pro-choice activists became angered when police suddenly began to pick out pro-choice supporters from the clinic side of the street in order to drag them to the other side.

Dobak told *GCN* that a police officer dragged her across the street and pushed her over the top of a police cruiser, despite her insistence that she is disabled and has brittle bones. She was caught by pro-choice activists on the other side of the car, but remained on the ground for several minutes in pain. When friends helped Dobak up to lean on the police car, several police officers admonished her to "get off of it."

A legal observer who argued with police—charging them with violating the First Amendment rights of the activists by picking them out based upon the content of their signs or speech—was put into a paddy wagon and released a few minutes later.

"I guess they decided not to arrest a lawyer," said the observer, Boston attorney Gail Pendleton. All legal observers—who were not carrying any signs or shouting slogans—were removed from the clinic side of the street along with the pro-choice activists.

A Cranston police detective responded to

activists' challenges with the statement, "If you go over there, you know what's going to happen—there's going to be a fight." However, Ellen Kaye, another pro-choice activist from Cambridge, said she, Dobak and others had been on the clinic side protesting since 8:30—almost two hours before police removed them—without incident.

"I'm really impressed with the turnout. It was very empowering. It was a great mobilization," said Donna Schneider of Yale Students for Reproductive Choice, one of several student groups from around New England that attended the actions. A pro-choice rally on Nov. 1 drew an estimated 300 people at the Yale campus in New Haven, Conn., and Yale students filled two buses for the Boston and Cranston protests, Schneider said.

Members of unions were also present in large numbers. Jolee Zola, a member of the United Transportation Union who works at Amtrak, said, "I am so happy today because day after day on the front pages of the *Globe* and the *Herald* they have said [members of Operation Rescue] were going to come into Boston and shut the clinics down. And today they got their buns handed to them in a big way." □

First Black lesbian elected

In another election openly HIV+ NY candidate Duane, and gay rights protections in St. Paul and San Francisco win. In Boston, openly HIV+ Cronin draws strongest turnout since '83, while lesbian Noble pulls ahead despite opposition from gay groups.

By Dawn Schmitz

SEATTLE—In a resounding victory over an incumbent, lesbian candidate Sherry Harris won a city council seat Nov. 6—carrying 66 percent of the vote to become the nation's first openly lesbian African American elected official. Harris was among a handful of openly gay candidates on city council ballots around the country this fall. Her victory comes in an election year that also included challenges to a gay rights ordinance in St. Paul, Minn., and domestic partnerships in San Francisco, both of which were defeated.

"It's really great to know that the people of Seattle are at a point where being gay or lesbian doesn't matter to voters," said Harris's campaign manager, Steve Craig. He added that Harris's sexual orientation "was not a detriment to our campaign."

Harris successfully deflected attempts by the media to pigeon-hole her as a lesbian candidate, according to Craig. Although she is articulate on gay issues, he said, her plat-

form included the idea that all issues that affect the city as a whole also touch on the lives of lesbians and gay men. Craig told *GCN* that Harris often used responses such as, "The last time I checked, transportation had no gender and land use planning had no sexual orientation."

Craig acknowledged that Harris received "fantastic support" from the gay and lesbian community, in a city that has a higher than average gay and lesbian population. In addition, he said, Harris's campaign received \$10,000 from the newly established Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, a national organization designed to help openly gay people win elections.

Other gay candidates

Tom Duane, an openly-gay candidate, will take a seat on the New York City Council to represent the newly-formed "gay friendly" district that includes Greenwich Village. He received 72 percent of the vote in the election

Continued on page 6

GCN JOB OPENINGS

Business Manager

Available immediately. Responsible for financial management using computerized accounting system, for accounts payable and receivable, staff payroll and generating regular financial reports. Perform general office management tasks. Develop and maintain bookstore sales and bookstore accounts. Negotiate and maintain longterm exchange advertisement contracts. Act as one of two staff liaisons to the Board of Directors. This position will work closely with the development coordinator on long-range financial planning and developing annual budgets.

Qualifications: Strong administrative and financial skills and experience. Experience with non-profit management or bookkeeping preferred. Strong interpersonal and group meeting skills.

National Reporter/ Circulation Co-coordinator

Available in December. Research, investigate and write news stories with a national scope. May include some analytical/feature writing as well. Share responsibilities with other staff writer for coordinating weekly mailing of paper and processing subscriptions.

Qualifications: Strong writing skills and ability to write several stories under weekly deadline pressure. Knowledge of national/local lesbian and gay community and issues helpful. Strong organizational and record-keeping skills as well as knowledge of data entry and/or computers also helpful.

Deadline for application: Dec. 8, 1991

GCN Positions All GCN positions require commitments to lesbian/gay liberation, feminism, anti-racism, an awareness of class issues, and collective decision-making.

Salary/Benefits: All positions pay \$230/week and include health/life insurance through Harvard Community Health Plan, dental allowance, sick leave, and four weeks paid vacation. GCN offers staff members responsibility for their own jobs, with flexibility and ample room for innovation.

Please send resume and cover letter to: GCN Job Search Committee, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

Only obstacle is other gay men and lesbians

Dear GCN:

Wickie Stamps' letter about the National Writers Union (NWU) is misleading. NWU is *not* shutting out gay and lesbian writers.

For the last several months, I've been working to build a coalition for lesbian and gay writers within NWU. The Union has given us money. But even better, NWU has provided moral support.

Our members have convinced NWU leaders to go to the OutWrite conference (in Boston next March) to encourage gay and lesbian participation in NWU.

If we've had any obstacles, they haven't been from NWU leaders. So far, our only obstacle has been a few gay and lesbian members who sit back comfortably while complaining about everything under the sun—without once getting off their asses to help us accomplish something.

Sincerely,
Stephen Kyle
Stoughton, Mass.

Writing in praise

Dear GCN:

Why do we so seldom see responses to GCN's book reviews—either agreeing or disagreeing with the reviewer? Besides laziness or its opposite compulsive busyness, there's no obvious answer, except of course, books don't matter.

I write in praise of Ellen Herman's and Marc Stein's review essays of Doris Grumbach's and Henry Abelove's recent books. The sense of balance and intellectual honesty in both reviews reminded me of what is missing from what passes as intellectual/political discourse in the halls of power. On Grumbach, there is no fear or mendacity in Herman's consecutive topic sentences and her development of them: "This self-centered and elitist tone, if disturbing, is at least honest"; "Grumbach's sensibility is frequently cranky and quick to judgment"; and "In spite of all this, there is something I like about Grumbach."

As to whether either Grumbach or Abelove

is a lesbian or gay writer, or their books gay literature, I say when in doubt, review and let us decide. We all have our own canons to which we will either admit one or both or let them swim on their own in the larger ocean of literature—or prose. Among Herman's recommendations of unquestionably gay autobiography is Kate Millett's *The Loony Bin Trip*. For further advice on whether that book's worth the purchase price see Amy Hoffman's well balanced and intellectually solid essay on Millett's book which appeared in GCN toward the end of last year. I obviously didn't take the time then to praise that review.

Finally, a fag cultural note: Let me very briefly call attention to the highlight of La Streisand's recent 30-year-career self-tribute. In her lopsided duet with Ryan O'Neal of Cole Porter's "You're the Top," from *What's up Doc?*, Barbara addresses Ryan as the top. He retorts: "I am?" He then insists that she is, and later in their debate the song ends on that unequivocal note. Was there ever any doubt?

Harry Seng
San Francisco, Calif.

Who has superhuman willpower?

Dear GCN:

On conditions inside here it is almost medieval in how they look upon contact with other inmates. They still lock you down for "inappropriate sexual contact" when they find you in any of many positions even if they only suspect any type of sexual activity going on. I have been locked down and gotten write-ups (disciplinary action) for just giving another man, my cellmate, a back rub only because as I did so we were both in our jockey shorts. Another inmate last week got written up for masturbating during count. It almost seems like here they expect us to have super-human willpower in how we control our sexual urges. Or at least we should be able to totally ignore them, come on give me a break, put men together along with other gay men and just what do you expect to happen?

So far they have not censored any of my male mail yet. After I am sure to specify anything sent in not be sexually explicit i.e.-

no shots of actual sex acts. I figure this will also be plagued with ire as the days go along but till then I grin alot.

Wayne Tubbs
P. O. Box 250
Draper, Utah 84020

Dismayed activist in him

Dear GCN:

It is the activist in me that prompts me to write and express the dismay I felt when reading your Newsnotes section of the October 20-26, 1991 issue of GCN (Vol. 19, No. 14). You led this section with a story on labor activists protesting the fire at a poultry processing plant in North Carolina, followed by a story on Native American activists protesting Columbus Day parades. Where is the "gay" in either of these stories? Have you forgotten your sense of Community? It is while reading these stories, along with the plethora of gay activist news, that I feel I am no longer reading *Gay Community News*, but instead reading merely *Activist News*.

David Gagne
South Boston, Mass.

Appreciated your weirdness

Dear GCN:

Wanted to let you know how much I enjoy and appreciated your article, "Weird Science, An Interview with Jennifer Terry." Last semester I took a college course in psychiatric nursing. One assigned reading was an article asserting increased stress during pregnancy as a possible cause for homosexuality. I tried to express to my instructor my discomfort with the study and that at the very least, a contradictory article should also be assigned for balance. However, she felt (much like LeVay) that she was doing a service for the gay and lesbian community. After all, if the "cause" is biological, no one can hate us any more. I intend to copy your article and give it to that instructor in hope of helping her to understand.

Thanks,
Barb Lee
Spokane, Wash.

What should gay prisoners do?

Dear GCN:

I'm a known homosexual prisoner at Valdosta Correctional Institution and around about September 28, 1991, I was having a talk with another inmate named Charlie Hood who has been harassing me sexually. On the above date he stated to me, that all the inmates are saying I have AIDS. At that time I told him I didn't have AIDS. Two days later this same inmate stopped me on my way to the gym and said "I found out you don't have AIDS, the lab technician Johnny let me see your HIV test results.... and I also can tell you when you took the test, May 17, 1991 and you took another one in September of this year." This inmate also told me that the lab technician helped him beat a drug test.

So after being told all this I talked with two of the nurses about it. Their boss Mr. Jack Williams told me to write a statement of everything I told them. So I did. Around October 4, 1991 at 3:40 p.m. I was called to security to talk with Captain Rocheleay and the Deputy Warden, Mr. Roulain, about this. I was told by these two officials that they would check it out.

After not getting any feedback from the two, I wrote the superintendent Mr. L. Linahan on October 22, 1991 asking him why haven't I heard anything about what's going on with what I've told officials. Mr. L. Linahan told me he had talked with the lab technician and inmate Charlie Hood and they denied that this happened. He said somebody is lying. I said I'm not lying, inmate Charlie Hood did tell me this happened. Mr. L. Linahan told me to leave his office, I left and went to my call out at the Chaplain Department. After being in group about 20 minutes, Sgt. Redding came and said get against the wall and handcuffed me and put me in segregation.

The warden locked me down for lying to him about this matter. When I'm telling the truth—only because inmate Charlie Hood works in his office for him. I have been discriminated and harassed by the officials here ever since I've been here because I'm homosexual and they're homophobic.

Something needs to be done but I don't have the resources. Officers here have called me sissies before and cursed me out because I'm gay. It doesn't do any good to file grievances cause they will not send them to Central Office in Atlanta, Ga.

Eric A. Boykins
P.O. Box 310
Valdosta, Ga 31603

Gay Community News

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of ten, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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* Indicates member of paid staff collective

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Postmaster: Send address changes to:
Gay Community News, 62 Berkeley St.,
Boston, MA 02116.

On childhood sexual experiences

Dear GCN:

Wanted: Males or females (30 and under preferred) who are willing to share intimate details about your first or early sexual experiences (all kinds, gay or straight, good or bad) for anonymous compilation into a book presenting both sides of the sexual freedom issue of youth. All proceeds from this book above the cost of printing will go to organizations benefitting the gay/lesbian community and children's freedom organizations.

I really hope to be able to put together a manuscript that will show that we all should be allowed to do whatever our bodies tell us is right, whenever that happens. I had my first sexual experience at age 12 with a 38-year old man and though it is contrary to most "therapists," I do *not* consider it abuse. I was ready for it, and it was a wonderful experience because I had not been brainwashed with the sex-is-dirty type propaganda so prevalent today, which only leads to sexual repression, homophobia and other "crimes" (or what *should be* a crime). I also welcome letters or comments from those who are not for children's sexual freedom, if they are willing to write.

Donald K. Love
#AK-8459
P.O. Box 200
Camp Hill, PA 17001-0200

Bashing!

Dear GCN:

I am writing to you to inform you of a program that will be airing in your community in the very near future that is worthy of your attention and reveiw.

The program is an episode of *Street Justice*, a Steven J. Cannell series starring Carl Weathers, called *Bashing!* As you may have already surmised the subject matter regards one of the unappealing pathologies of our society. In many cases the treatment of such a subject in episodic television is superficial, limited and blighted with stereotypes, leaving the viewer unsatisfied and in many cases even outraged. This presentation is an exception!

Within the confines of television drama this episode extends itself to many of the sensitive issues that surround concerns of sexual preference and deals with them in a direct manner. This is a program that does what more of television could be doing; providing "Prime Time" viewing that is challenging, stiulating and entertaining.

I hope this program is exempt from the coercion and scare tactics of short-sighted interest groups that have plagued other progressive programs that simply ask us to look at ourselves.

The program is slated for an air date the third week in November but local times and dates may vary slightly. Please check your local listings for this poignant episodes of *Street Justice* called *Bashing*.

Sean O'Bryne
Vancouver, B.C.
Canada

People have the right to get back on their feet

Dear GCN:

Greetings! I am so happy that I am finally receiving your newspaper. I've lost touch these past two and a half years.

You see, the State of Idaho Department of Corrections does not allow GCN to enter their institutions. However, there are some brothers who are, and have already made it an issue in court. It may take a while, but it will most likely be in "our" favor.

I've been busy these last few years. I've been working on a prisoner project trying to help prisoners with parole plans and collecting a whole array of contacts to open my own business. What I need is some input on what exactly are some of prisoners needs, and what would they like to see a contact company offer?

I have been working this idea for a reason. First, as being a prisoner myself, and having been out on parole (I'm back on a minor violation), I have found that there are some things that I needed when I was released. Fortunately, I had family to help me out, and that I was only in prison for two years. But I needed help first by having employment. That is the main thing besides residence, which is required for a Parole Plan.

Other things that are needed is information regarding chemical dependency programs throughout the country. Many parolees are required to attend and or go through an inpatient program upon their parole.

School and vocational training is one important need. I've seen a lot of people who are paroled out want to go to school. In my last few years I have obtained much information on how to obtain grants and how to

obtan funds for school and vocational training.

I utilized a contact center at one point. They helped me, some, but not how I would have liked them to. Most of my questions were answered by "we do not have that information at this time." My business will have the answers that prisoners ask; if not, I'll find them. It's bad enough that the state and federal governments capitalize on prisoners, we don't need private businesses to take what's left without giving the full service.

I have gathered a whole array of data that can be useful to most anyone who needs help. And with the help of computer technology, I can do this at a minimum cost. So while I'm doing this violation time, which will be approximately eight months, I am seeking ideas from prisoners and parolees White, Black, Native American, Gay, Straight, whatever. I am doing this because it's a way I can "get back" at the prison systems for f--cking over people who have the right to get back on their feet without the bureaucratic bullshit that the state and federal governments like to dish out.

I am Native American, and I have felt the power of race discrimination and, as always being politically oriented myself, it is time that I found an outlet to combat discrimination against an ex-fellon.

If you can't write to other prisoners, you may write to me, Danny Murillo, 8508 Yarina Way, Cheyenne, WY, 82009.

If you can write to other prisoners, you may write to me at the address below. If you are able to write to me at this address, I will receive your letters and ideas faster.

I will appreciate any suggestions and will consider all. I look forward to your letters.

I also want to thank GCN for the opportunity of printing this.

Daniel R. Murillo
P.O. Box 5000
Sheridan, OR 97378

Correction

Due to a production error, "Amazon Ice Queen" was printed as the title to an untitled poem by Kathy Hollenback. Amazon Ice Queen is the pen name of the writer of Vanity Dyke (The New Girl).

Also, The photo of gay and lesbian marchers for Puerto Rican independence should have been credited to John Penley. GCN regrets the errors.

GCN Editorial Guidelines

The "Community Voices" and "Speaking Out" sections in GCN represent part of our efforts to provide a true forum for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us, and to respond to ideas expressed within our pages. We welcome all contributions except personal attacks.

Letters and "Speaking Out" contributions that have appeared in other publications previously are printed only as space allows. GCN reserves the right to edit letters and "Speaking Out" contributions for length and clarity, in consultation with the author. Please include your name, address, and daytime phone number with your letter or article so that we can contact you to verify edits.

All letters and "Speaking Out" contributions must be TYPED and DOUBLE-SPACED. Letters can be NO LONGER THAN TWO PAGES. "Speaking Out" contributions can be NO LONGER THAN FOUR PAGES and require a short (one to two sentence) biographical note about the author for inclusion at the end of the article.

To ensure a a diverse representation of perspectives on the letters pages, "Speaking Out" contributions from authors who have had other "Speaking Outs" printed in GCN recently may be temporarily postponed.

The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" contributions are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN staff, Board or membership.

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SAFER SEX AND DRUG USE GUIDELINES

GCN offers these guidelines for all of us who are making decisions about sex and drug use in the midst of the AIDS epidemic.

HIV is a virus widely thought to be a cause of AIDS. The highest concentrations of HIV are found in blood and semen. So it's important to avoid any way in which HIV-infected blood or semen can get from one person's body into another person's bloodstream.

- Fucking (anal and vaginal) without a condom and sharing needles account for almost all the documented cases of HIV transmission.
- Oral sex without a condom or dental dam accounts for a very few documented cases of HIV transmission.
- Other ways of transmitting HIV that have not been documented but which could be theoretically risky include: fisting, finger fucking, rimming, deep kissing, sharing uncleaned dildos. The theory here is that any way HIV-infected bodily fluids get from one person into another involves risk. For example, HIV could be transmitted if a person with a cut on their hand fistfucked their partner and caused bleeding in their rectum or vagina.

HOW TO PLAY SAFER

Only you can decide what risks you are willing to take. Some people use safer sex practices with all their partners. Other people make decisions about the risks they are willing to take based on their own and their partners' sexual and drug use history and/or HIV status. People also make decisions based on how comfortable they feel negotiating safer sex in any particular situation. If you and your partner have not talked about past practices and/or HIV status, don't make assumptions. (For example, many lesbians have had unprotected intercourse with a man in the last ten years.)

- Use a condom when fucking. On the condoms, use water-based lubricants like KY. Oil-based lubricants like Crisco, Vaseline, and baby oil may make condoms break.
- Use a condom when sucking dick if your partner is going to come in your mouth. If HIV-infected cum or pre-cum gets in your mouth, it may get in your bloodstream through cuts in your gums or sores in your mouth.
- Use dental dams (latex squares) when going down on a woman if she is having her period or has a vaginal infection. Menstrual blood and secretions from vaginal infections have more HIV than healthy vaginal secretions or urine. No information has been gathered about the concentration of HIV in "female ejaculate."
- Use latex gloves for fisting or finger-fucking if you have any sores or cuts on your hands.
- Keep semen and blood (including menstrual blood and blood drawn from piercing, cutting or shaving) out of your vagina, anus, mouth, or breaks in your skin.
- If you share dildos, vibrators or other sex toys, use a new condom each time, or clean toys with hydrogen peroxide or soap and water.
- Alternative insemination may put you at risk. Discuss this risk with potential donors or sperm banks.
- Massage, hugging, dirty talk, role-playing, masturbation (solo, with a partner, in a group) and other activities that don't let blood or semen into your bloodstream are safe.
- Alcohol, poppers or other drugs may lower your ability to make good decisions. Many people have reported that they have been unable to maintain safer sex practices after getting high.
- Good nutrition, lots of rest, exercise and nonabuse of alcohol and other drugs may help you fight all illnesses, including AIDS.

INTRAVENOUS DRUG USE

- Don't share works (needles, syringes, droppers, spoons, cottons or cookers)!
- If you must share or re-use works, clean them before and after each injection as follows: dip needle and works into bleach, draw up and release three times, dip needle and works into fresh water, draw up and release three times. In an emergency, rubbing alcohol or vodka can be used instead of bleach. Or you can boil works that aren't plastic in water for at least 15 minutes. (Use a fresh solution each time you clean your works.)

RESOURCE NUMBERS

National AIDS Hotline: 1 (800) 342-7514
AIDS Action Committee (AAC) Boston: 1 (800) 235-2331
Latino AIDS Hotline (bilingual), Boston: (617) 262-7248
AIDS Action Committee (AAC) IV Drug Use Taskforce, Boston: (617) 437-4200
Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), New York: (212) 807-6655
National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC), Washington, D.C.: (202) 544-1076
Women's AIDS Network, San Francisco: (415) 864-4376

Election

Continued from page 3

Nov. 6 after taking 60 percent in the Democratic primary against Liz Abzug, the openly-lesbian daughter of former U.S. Rep. Bella Abzug (D-N.Y.) Duane, who has a long history of local gay activism, received backing in the primaries from most segments of the gay and lesbian community.

Duane, who announced during his campaign that he was HIV-positive, told *GCN* he made the information public because, "I had always been open about being gay I thought I would be candid about this as well." He said he didn't know if, as some observers claim, the announcement helped his visibility. Duane said he believes he is the first openly HIV-positive person to hold elected office in the country.

Redistricting was key to Duane's win, he said, emphasizing the importance of working toward the establishment of districts that have a high concentration of gay and lesbian voters. "We absolutely have to be involved in redistricting," he said. "It's critically important for empowering our communities."

Michael Cronin of Boston's South End ran a spirited campaign against entrenched conservative District 2 city councilor James Kelly. Although Cronin—who, like Duane, is openly-gay and HIV-positive—lost the election, he considers his campaign successful in bringing together a coalition of voters in Boston's racially diverse South End, which is home to many gay men.

District 2 includes the South End and Chinatown, as well as South Boston—a large, conservative, mostly white neighborhood. Cronin's campaign organized the registration of 1200 new voters, mostly in the South End, according to campaign spokesperson John Demeter. Cronin received 74 percent of the South End vote, a three-to-one margin over Kelly, and Cronin also won in Chinatown.

Cronin said his outstanding support in the South End shows that Kelly is not representing the entire district and that district lines should be redrawn, a view supported by Byron Rushing, a progressive African American who represents the South End in the State House. Cronin said even some of Kelly's supporters acknowledged to him that "the views and the values here [in the South End] are different from those in South Boston."

According to Demeter, the overall voter turnout in the South End was the highest in eight years, since Mel King, an African American, ran for mayor in 1983. The coalition that came together for his campaign, Cronin said, is only the beginning of a major drive to encourage and support future progressive candidates to run in the district.

A future candidate will "have the advantage of being able to capitalize on the momentum we've already established," Cronin said. "I really feel very, very good about opening up the possibilities for different representation" in the district.

Meanwhile, one of the nation's first gay elected officials, Boston City Councillor David Scondras, coasted easily into his fifth term in office, with 70 percent of the votes from his district (District 8—the Fenway, Back Bay, Mission Hill, and Beacon Hill).

Elaine Noble, the U.S.'s first openly-gay state representative who served in the Massachusetts legislature in the 1970s, campaigned for the city council in Cambridge, Mass., this fall without the support of the local progressive gay and lesbian community. Due to Cambridge's elaborate election system, which involves counting ballots by hand, election returns were not fully available at *GCN's* presstime. However, Noble appears to be running neck-and-neck with two other candidates for the final city council seat.

After seeking and failing to receive the endorsement of the Cambridge Lavender Alliance—a progressive gay, lesbian and bisexual organization—Noble faulted the Alliance for being "morally bereft," and suggested in *Boston Phoenix* article that many members of the Alliance were also members of the North American Man-Boy Love Association. In addition, she was quoted in the *Boston Globe* as lauding Albert O'Neil, the arch-conservative Boston city councilor at-large who states in his campaign literature that he is vehemently opposed to gay rights and proposes that to end the AIDS crisis, "a lot of people in this country should change their way of living, and then we might survive." O'Neil's literature also stated, "I am sick and tired of this first amendment right [sic] crap."

Members of the Alliance also stated they opposed Noble's candidacy for her desire to change Cambridge's form of government despite her admitted lack of recent participation in Cambridge politics and her ignorance of issues ranging from the distribution of condoms in schools to the separation of church and state.

An openly-lesbian African American lost a city council election in Tampa, Fla. Nadine Smith, a former *Tampa Tribune* local government reporter, lost the Oct. 8 special runoff election after a strong showing in the Sept. 10 primary. "Our campaign opened the door," Smith told *GCN*. "It showed that sexual orientation does not [determine who is] a viable candidate."

Anti-gay referenda

An effort by anti-gay forces in St. Paul, Minn., to repeal the city's year-old gay and lesbian civil rights ordinance failed by nearly 4,000 votes. The city, which voted in and then repealed a gay rights ordinance in the 1970s, will continue to be among an estimated 25 municipalities nationwide to grant protections based upon sexual orientation. "It's a great day for St. Paul," said Tom Welna, aide to Mayor James Scheibel. "We're gonna raise the gay [rainbow] flag over city hall today."

In San Francisco, domestic partnerships were affirmed after an effort to repeal the city's ordinance acknowledging them was defeated. "It's a mandate," said openly-lesbian supervisor Roberta Achtenberg. "It shows that after 30 years of struggle, San Francisco has become a town ... that really respects the diversity of our families. I couldn't be happier about it."

—filed from Boston

Violence

Continued from page 1

paying the \$25.

"I am personally upset that the arrest will show up on my record," said Reichart, who has written a letter of complaint to his city council member. "'I feel I was misled by police—perhaps deliberately—in regard to the post-and-forfeit situation. I want my record expunged."

Spinar believes the police are guilty of false arrest. He has filed a civil complaint with the Washington, D.C. Civilian Complaint Review Board, at the request of the mayor's office, and is also looking into the possibility of pursuing a lawsuit against the police.

"Afterwards, I experienced a sense of guilt and had to remind myself I hadn't done anything wrong," said Spinar.

No full investigation

GLOV's Conaty said the failure of the people on 17th Street to react violently, even when pushed and insulted by police, indicates the degree to which the event was peaceable, and did not justify the presence of riot control officers.

Conaty said that the riot police had apparently marched down Q Street from Georgetown, where previous Halloween crowds sometimes reached 50,000 and became quite boisterous. She speculated that one reason the riot police were sent to 17th Street was a lower than anticipated crowd in Georgetown, estimated at 20,000.

Outraged GLOV and community members met after the incident and called for a full independent investigation. They have asked that police officers who are implicated be temporarily suspended from work with pay and those responsible for the excessive police force be fired.

Darby, of the Mayor's Advisory Committee, said that her group had also called for a full investigation of the Halloween incident. "The mayor is very supportive of the gay and lesbian community, always has been and I think will continue to be," she added.

On Nov. 6, Pratt Dixon issued a statement responding to the allegations of police misconduct, saying that the Metropolitan Police Department cannot conduct a formal investigation "because Civilian Complaint Review Board actions have already been filed." Pratt Dixon did say that she does not condone the use of excessive force or violence by police. She also sought to assure community members that she and Police Chief Issac Fulwood had discussed "the events leading up to the alleged police misconduct."

Conaty said that the backlog of cases at the Community Complaint Review Board goes back as far as two years and waiting for the complaints from this incident to go through will take too long. "We demand that any complaints filed in this incident be expedited and dealt with immediately," she said.

According to Conaty, one of the most disturbing implications of the Halloween incident is that 10 years of on-going sensitivity training for police cadets is being undermined by homophobic veteran police. For that reason, GLOV and community members have also demanded greater police participation in and financing of the GLOV training program, calling for the police department to require attendance of veteran officers.

In her press release the Mayor responded to the issues of sensitivity training by saying that she and Fulwood are in agreement with respect to training of "our younger police officers."

—filed from Boston

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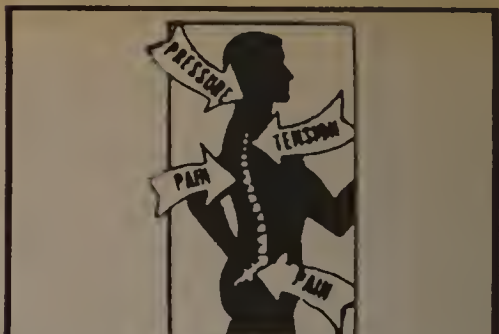
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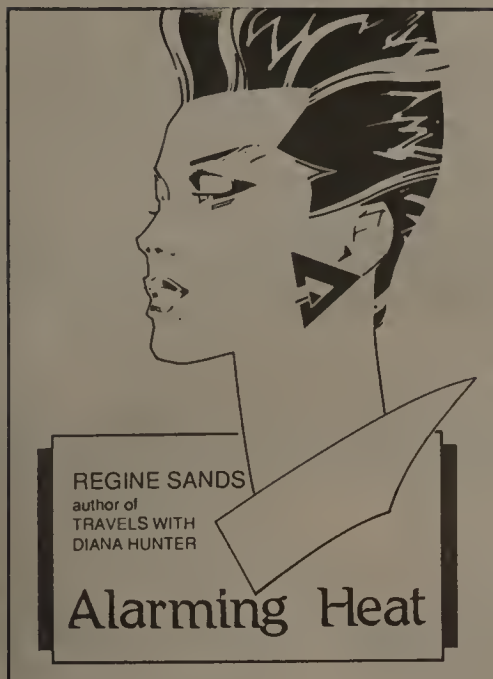
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Book Supplement

Fire down below



Alarming Heat

Regine Sands
Lace Publications, Boston, 1991
\$7.95 paper, 95pp.

Reviewed by Susie Day

A collection of stories in which a lesbian and her vibrator or a lesbian and her ice cubes or a lesbian and her motorcycle or a lesbian and her lesbian do things they're not supposed to do, in places they're not supposed to do them, in order to experience the thrill of the Truly Naughty. ("Betty prepared herself for the ultimate unveiling.... Betty was mighty proud of those breasts.")

It's nice to see consenting adult lesbians take the initiative and fuck themselves into Freedom, if you don't mind that the writing often stumbles in an attempt to keep up with the sex. ("I return my hands to the fireplace between my legs.") Still, a lot of references to hot, thick vaginal cream and red, red lips could well succeed in bringing out the hidden Orgasm Junkie in you. □

Divided

New short fiction anthology drops its own theme

Indivisible: New Short Fiction by West Coast Gay and Lesbian Writers Terry

Wolverton and Robert Drake, eds.
Plume, New York, 1991
\$10.95 paper, 317pp.

Reviewed by Michael F. Lowenthal

Indivisible: New Short Fiction by West Coast Gay and Lesbian Writers is the fourth major anthology devoted to gay and/or lesbian fiction to appear in as many months. The and/or is necessary because Indivisible is the only of this summer's four (and according to its editors, the first ever), anthology of fiction by gay men and lesbians. As the jacket copy states, "Indivisible represents unity and the need to transcend human differences." This distinction is the collection's key selling point and primary artistic justification, and unfortunately its largest shortcoming.

There is some wonderful writing in this collection. The first story, "Eternity" by Bernard Cooper, virtually brims over with homoeroticism, evoking a pre-adolescent, slightly confused, "differentness" reminiscent of *A Boy's Own Story*, only infinitely better-crafted. Although there is no homosexual activity or mention of it until the third paragraph from the end, this is a gay story through and through.

The final piece in the collection, and its longest, is Rick Sandford's brilliant account of an Auschwitz commandant's love affair with a Jewish prisoner, in the form of an academic paper. "Forster and Rosenthal Reevaluated" draws its power from the carefully crafted historical format, which creates the impression of absolute authenticity, and thus absolute empathy.

Other stories are also worth at least two reads. Michael Lassell's "Skyfires" is an ingenious interweaving of a gay retelling of the Icarus myth with a college dorm story. Ayofemi Folayan's "Now, I Have To Tell This Story: Trial by Fire," although it includes some predictable writing, is nonetheless a powerful recounting of a rape and of the revitalizing power of storytelling.

But quality writing does not necessarily make for a quality anthology. A good anthology has an order, a unifying theme that determines both the selection and the placement of stories.

Indivisible has two themes that are put forth as justification for its having been gathered together. First, of course, it is a collection of West Coast writers, or as the inside blurb puts it, "the next wave from the West Coast." If the West Coast had a discernible queer literary style associated with it, this might make some sense. As it is, however, the current geographic home of the contributors (many of them are Eastern transplants) has very little bearing on their writing. Yes, the majority of the pieces are set on the West Coast, but they are as different in style, genre, content and quality as is Los Angeles from Vancouver, B.C.

The second, and clearly more significant *raison d'être* of this collection is reflected in its title, *Indivisible*. In the introduction, editors

Wolverton and Drake call ours a time of "healing between lesbians and gay men," a "historical moment" when we are working together as never before. Although they recognize that the bitter divisions have not all been forgotten or set aside, they posit that this first-ever expressly gay and lesbian fiction anthology is evidence of a new era of unity.

Well, perhaps so. More likely, the collection represents Wolverton and Drake's attempt to move us closer to such an era. Their task is clearly not an easy one. Yes, gay men and lesbians have been working together more closely in recent times, but we are hardly "indivisible." Joining gay and lesbian writers in a cooperative effort is an admirable, but at this point extremely difficult, goal. To accomplish this, any book would require a concerted editorial effort.

It is therefore astonishing that aside from the two-page introduction, Wolverton and Drake make no other attempt to demonstrate the "shared voice" implied by the title. The only apparent organizing principle is that the book alternates (with one exception) between stories authored by men and women.

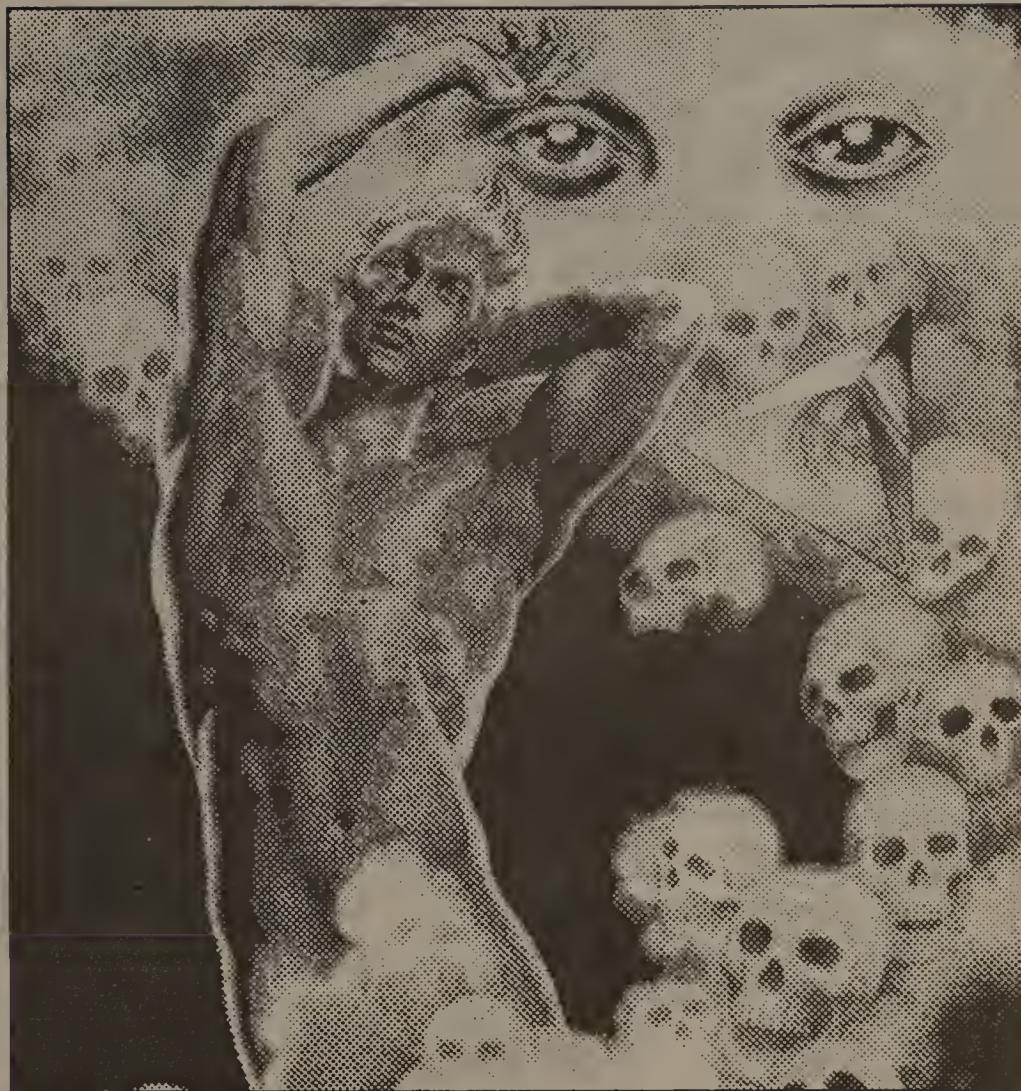
But merely alternating stories by men and women provides no evidence of our political or literary connections. In fact, presenting the stories side by side serves to heighten the reader's awareness of the disconnectedness of gay and lesbian fiction, because there is so little overlapping or cross-referencing in the pieces. The only story in which lesbians and gay men are joined thematically (or otherwise) is Robin Podolsky's "Dignity/Uniform/Dignity." This three-part vision, presenting a woman being raped, the parallel scene of a gay man being attacked, and finally an alternative in which gay men and lesbians join together to bash back at the criminals, does just what the anthology sets out to do. It demonstrates the connections gay men and lesbian have, and the synergistic power we can possess when we join forces with one another.

In one other story, "A Silent Village" by Wendi Frisch, the female author writes about a father and his son, but neither they nor their situation has any identifiably gay orientation. With these two exceptions in the anthology, gay men write about gay men, and lesbians write about lesbians. It's as if each group had not heard that the other existed.

Citing the AIDS crisis and other recent events that have necessitated coalition building, the editors state in the introduction that now "is the first time since Stonewall that gay men and lesbians have felt so much common ground." This is arguably the case, but none of the stories in the anthology reflect this reality. There are no gay and lesbian activist groups, as in Sarah Schulman's *People in Trouble*. There are no lesbian buddies of gay men with AIDS, or vice versa. There are not even gay men and lesbians who are friends!

In other words, this anthology contrived especially with gay-lesbian unity in mind, has even less evidence of connectedness than many books that do not claim unity as their guiding theme. Take, for example, *Certain Voices*, another of this summer's many gay fiction

Continued on page 9



Disco kills

Jay B. Laws's *Steam* is one of the most innovative books to respond to the AIDS epidemic

Steam

Jay B. Laws
Alyson Publications, Boston, 1991
\$9.95, paper, 398pp.

Reviewed by Michael Bronski

Steam, a new novel by Jay B. Laws, is a neat supernatural thriller that more than makes up in imagination and atmosphere what it might lack in sophistication. Like the novels of Stephen King—whose writing style is nowhere near as good as Laws'—*Steam* attempts to get under our skin by finding the hidden horrors that may lurk beneath everyday life.

This is, of course, the basis for all horror stories and readers have grown used to the more classic of the genre: like Stevenson's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* or Henry James' *The Turn of the Screw*. To examine the purely psychological, contemporary writers have focused their attention on the more mundane elements of modern life. And while King always has a sound psychological basis for his work—like the fear of female sexuality that pervades *Carrie* and *Firestarter*—he has also filled his books with the likes of killer cars and carnivorous houses. In *Steam*, Jay B. Laws does King one better and locates his horror in a human-devouring gay bathhouse that is attempting to take over the world.

The problem in describing the plot of *Steam*—as with many supernatural thrillers—is that, reduced to precis, it sounds totally ridiculous. But here goes: an evil force, who goes by the name of Victor, has arrived in contemporary San Francisco and settled himself in the steam room of a now-closed bath house. This evil presence garners his energy from the sexual desires and fantasies of gay men who are lured to their death by remembering the pre-AIDS abandon that thrived in discos and bathhouses. Victor manifests himself as steam, or sometimes a heavy San Francisco fog, and travels around the city seducing and snaring victims by sweet talking them with sexual fantasies. As more and more men succumb to his allure, Victor's power becomes stronger and, apparently, unstoppable. The only two people who realize what is happening are David and Bobby—both of whom have recently developed psychic powers—but since they cannot convince anyone else of what is happening, they have to destroy Victor themselves.

If *Steam*'s plot borders on the silly—or at best, the sublimely ludicrous—Laws' writing is stylish, sleek and efficient. The book is continuously creepy and compulsively readable, not a

bad combination. But there is more to *Steam* than just a pop junk read. One of the charms of the book is to see how much and how cleverly Laws has borrowed from the realm of the supernatural thriller. There are large chunks of *The Exorcist* in *Steam*, as well as *The Fog*, inklings of Stephen King's quirky *IT* and even a nod towards the 1958 movie classic *The Blob*. It is clear that Laws knows his stuff and if at times *Steam* reads like an encyclopedia of the genre, it always feels fresh, never redundant or second-hand. Part of what makes *Steam* so inventive and original is that Laws has managed to take these elements and plot devices and has given them a new gay twist that packs a real emotional resonance. And while this is rather daring and exciting, it also feels a little scary because here—as well as in the supernatural genre in general—a critique of sexuality might be read negatively.

Because our culture generally attempts to obscure and mystify sexuality it often is cloaked in mystery. There has always been an undercurrent of danger associated with sexuality—both repressed and rampant—in supernatural fiction and frequently this sexuality is equated with danger. From Mrs. Radcliffe's *The Mysteries of Udolpho* to Bram Stoker's *Dracula* to Le Fenu's *Camilla* to *The Turn of the Screw*, sexuality is presented as both alluring and deadly: an unknown force that, once unleashed, might destroy. Each of these works plays on a variation of this theme—*Dracula* plays on the fears of a predatory sexuality while *The Turn of the Screw* might easily be read as a critique of the dangers of repressed sexual desire—but in all cases desire is seen as problematic rather than salvation.

In *Steam*, Laws takes a cautious and complicated view of this whole matter. It is clear that all of the gay men in the book are self-loving and positive about their sexuality. And there is also a great deal of discussion of the difficulties of living as a sexual person during the AIDS epidemic. One of Victor's greatest lures is that he offers these men a world in which AIDS does not exist (of course it is a false lure, they actually die and exist in agony) and Laws has a sharp understanding of the psychology that allows us to long for sexual activity we know should be avoided. When the slightly older David, who lived through years of pre-AIDS sexual fun, attempts to explain to the younger Bobby how things have changed, Laws encapsulates the sexual metaphysics of his book:

And then the party was over....I hate it when people say that, but yes: the party was over. In its own way that's

Continued on page 9

Loathe at first bite

Stick Vampires Anonymous six feet under



Jeffrey N. McMahan

Vampires Anonymous
Jeffrey N. McMahan
Alyson Publications, Boston, 1991
\$8.95 paper, 252pp.

Reviewed by Michael Gaucher

Unlike most vampires, I do not have an eternity to squander on useless pursuits, dead-end jobs and unrequited love. My time is limited and I would like to fill it with as many quality items as possible. It is with keeping this in mind that I recommend bypassing Jeffrey N. McMahan's *Vampire's Anonymous* for loftier literary pursuits. If you've misplaced your only copy of *War & Peace*, don't panic. A grocery list or phone bill will prove to be as entertaining as McMahan's novel, if not a bit more intellectually stimulating.

Ever since the popularity of Anne Rice's *Vampire Chronicles*, bookstores have been flooded with cheap take-offs trying to ride the coattails of her success. McMahan's book is no different. His work is filled with stereotypes from both vampire lore and supposed gay culture that combine to create a story that is tedious and superficial. He is so concerned with what he imagines to be gay sensibility that his characters are never allowed to evolve. The end result is a bunch of tired old queens drinking blood, insulting each other's wardrobes and trying to get the hottest coed



A drawing by the author

into bed. Yawn, yawn, yawn. If that's the stuff of great literature, half of my friends would have won Pulitzer Prizes by now.

The story centers on Andrew Lyall, a vain, violent and dashing young vampire with attitude and an annoying habit of referring to himself in the third person. When we first meet Lyall, he is not only being stalked by two vampire hunters and a band of disco chic undead, but he has also managed to infuriate the founder of Vampires Anonymous, a support group dedicated to abstaining from human blood. Needless to say, Andrew is not very popular. When his lover is murdered, Andrew swears vengeance and spends the rest of the novel trying to figure out who is responsible and how he is going to make them pay.

Murder. Revenge. People changing into bats. It sounds like it has all the elements of a best seller. Yet, even if McMahan had managed to make his characters more believable, his novel still would have ended up on the literary dung heap due to his infantile humor and extraneous sexist attitude. Monotonous puns on the fact that the characters are dead fill every page and contain as much sophistication and intrigue as a child screaming "Knock, Knock." Some of the more painful lines include, "Curious as a bat, I try for another peek," and "Now we're doing a jig on

Continued on page 9

Love times two

Because non-fictional lesbian readers need to read about fictional lesbian lovers

Lesbian Love Stories, Volume 2
Edited by Irene Zahava
Crossing Press, Freedom, Calif., 1991
\$9.95 paper, 204pp.

Reviewed by Susie Day

According to all the proper authorities, true love is a mediocre emotion, unless it is unrequited. But if you are lucky enough to experience unrequited love, say the experts, you have the option of becoming Noble. Simply by sublimating your libido and refocusing your priorities, you are able to produce—voilà!—Western Civilization: skyscrapers, prisons, Christianity, H-bombs, Great Art, Bic pens, the whole nine yards. Fortunately, *Lesbian Love Stories, Volume 2* has just appeared as another welcome signal that Western Civilization is crumbling. The volume's 28 stories, skillfully edited by Irene Zahava, are about women who love other women and have no intention of sublimating anything.

Because women and love can require so pleasantly, there are many stories in this collection that are about women doing dear, honest, vanilla things with each other, things that are lovely in their ordinariness. Tee Corinne writes of two long-time lovers and their early morning sex—tender, slow, habitual, in which the phrase "I want you" comes as both a release and a reassurance. Shay Youngblood tells a melodic story about a Black family's quiet, firm acceptance of their daughter's lesbian lover. Leslea Newman's story, in which the ordinary borders on the fantastic, describes two young women who meet, have sex, fall in love and stay together till the end of their lives—perfectly. Well, gee. We need to read about idyllic happiness at least once. For many lesbians, a simple "Hi honey, I'm home" (think of it: a honey *and* a home!) can feel like nine hours in a jacuzzi.

For those of us sneeringly inclined to see two people very much in love as couple-talist pigs, editor Zahava has provided relief. Lorrie Sprecher's raw, very funny "Sister Safety-Pin"

is about experimentations in female queerness that go on between two anarcho-punk roommates. Merrill Mushroom contributes two stories of bar butch seduction: a narrative and a how-to. Gloria Anzaldua comes up with the satirically surreal "Ms. Right, My True Love, My Soul Mate," about a lesbian who eats—as in chews and swallows—the woman who gave her a mysterious, wish fulfilling powder: "She is now of my flesh—every lover's dream."

There are stories of love lost, such as Louise Rafkin's mature, layered account of a middle-aged couple that stays together out of emotional inertia, and Barbara Wilson's poignant story of two women who fall in love at a conference but part, because of one woman's monogamous relationship. Lee Lynch writes achingly about a lesbian truckdriver who turns to a prostitute for comfort after the death of her lifelong lover. And there are stories of love in other times, such as a futuristic, girls-against-boys adventure a la Sally Gearhart, and a mini-epic on love between Amazons surviving the Trojan War.

It's nice to find such a broad array of women's desire, although a broader array of desiring women would have been welcome. There seem to be no Native American or Asian writers included in this volume, and, except for Joan Nestle's graceful story about a woman with a debilitating illness who risks physical pain to make love, there is nothing about disability.

Despite the diversity of characters, most of the emotional lives in these stories tend to share a certain isolation from the world and a lust for being in love—often to the exclusion of hard-core reality. It's sort of astounding, for instance, that, out of 28 love stories, nobody has—let alone mentions—safer sex. There are athletes, scholars, migrant workers, truckers, computer programmers depicted in this collection, but—interestingly, for a book that has sought a socially-aware diversity—no political activists. Several times, in the course of reading this book, I wanted to ask, "But don't any of you women-in-love read the paper?"

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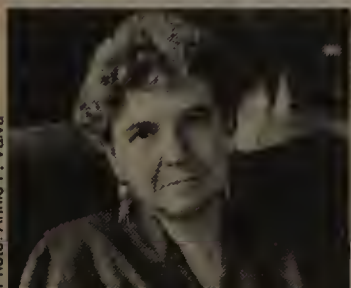


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Indivisible

Continued from page 7

anthologies. Gathered as a group of "stories about gay men," the collection includes a piece by Virginia Witt about a gay man and two lesbian friends visiting Provincetown. Granted, this is only one story out of 18 by a woman, but its presence indicates a real progression towards common ground between the worlds of gay and lesbian literature. This actual progress, as opposed to that claimed by the editors of *Indivisible*, is what can provide a foundation for our further cooperation.

All this said, *Indivisible* is a very good idea, which includes some very good writing. It is certainly worth the price of admission. Moreover, the very possibility that the book could have been conceived and published demonstrates that gay men and lesbians are healing some of our wounds, and are moving closer to the editor's dream that we recognize "what is shared as well as what divides."

In the end, though, the supposedly "indivisible" gay and lesbian stories in this anthology are really as easily separated from each other as the pages on which they are printed. While the editors' intentions are admirable, their execution falls far short of what is needed.

If "gay and lesbian literature" is to exist as truly one literature, with a unified voice, our connections must be deeper than book titles and jacket copy. We must write of our joint triumphs and disappointments, our continuing conflicts and moments of resolution, our common political goals and those which may be at odds—all the time writing about gay and lesbian characters who care about one another. And to do that, we must care about one another. □

Steam

Continued from page 7

all right too. It was time to grow up, move on. But all of those freewheeling desires—at least with me anyway—had to be locked up. Pushed into a private drawer. And once in a while it rears its head and shouts, *I want to come back!* Do you know what I mean? The desire to...enjoy life again without having to worry about the consequences....and from what I've seen in the neighborhood, [Victor] has been flaunting our old desires right in our faces. He tempts us by saying the party *isn't* over—not if you come to him. Pretty irresistible offer. And if we gay men have one fatal flaw, it's that: We are easily tempted.

Although *Steam* does not have a strong sex-negative message—and, in fact, Laws goes to considerable effort to reinforce the positive sexuality of the book—it does have a somewhat mixed message. David's pronouncement that gay men are easily tempted rings a little false since everyone is *easily* tempted, it is giving into temptation that is the problem. And despite Oscar Wilde's epigram about the ability to resist everything *but* temptation, recent safe sex studies have shown that gay men are, in fact, very good at dealing with making sound, healthy sexual choices.

Most books that have dealt with the effect of AIDS on gay men's lives have done so in a realistic manner. What distinguishes *Steam* in this category is that Laws is a nimble and able enough writer to actually get at the underlying tensions in contemporary gay male sexuality and conjure them up in a fantastical, yet emotionally believable setting. If nothing else, *Steam* is one of the most inventive books to respond to the AIDS epidemic.

It is also one of the most entertaining. Beyond the small qualms about its sexual politics, *Steam* is a thoroughly enjoyable and engaging read. There are times when Laws goes to far—a disco floor that actually eats people draws giggles rather than shudders—but he is almost always on target. The book is also very sexy and although a good part of this is centered on manifestations of Victor's deadly fantasies—many of which are tinged with a delicious, repulsive S/M quality—*Steam* understands well the complexities of sexual desire.

All too often gay genre novels are slighted by readers, critics and even publishers as being a little less than literature. *Steam* is not a great novel (and off hand, what is?), but it is a very good one. Intelligent, provocative and downright scary, *Steam* delivers with its visceral ability to quicken our pulse and enliven our body and mind. □

Vampires

Continued from page 8

the head of a coffin nail." And they get worse. Much worse. The harsh truth is that McMahan is not funny and that his attempted wit does more to aggravate readers than entertain them.

Vying for the aggravation award, however, is McMahan's treatment of women. His sole female character, Anneliese, is a vampire whom we are expected to alternately pity and scorn and then ultimately despise. She is portrayed as a sexually frustrated monster who transforms an innocent four-year-old boy into

one of the undead because "throughout history, the skirts could not keep their hands off the little ones." By aligning her sickness with her gender, McMahan sets up Anneliese as a yardstick by which he measures the superiority of the homosexual man over the heterosexual woman. When she finally dies, it is a relief, not only because it is the end of the novel, but also because it saves readers from having to listen to Lyall's immature litany concerning the female gender.

If I made this book sound like a chore to read—good. It was horrendous. The aspects I chose to expand upon are merely the highlights of a much larger work chock full of literary offenses. Instead of allowing readers escape, this novel confines readers through formulated humor and unimaginative characters. You might want to pick up a copy of Vampires Anonymous if you have masochistic tendencies or want to give it to an enemy as a gift. But other than that, you'd be wise to put on some garlic and bury this novel six feet under, where all good vampires belong. □

Love

Continued from page 8

Oh well. On the *toujours l'amour* plane of reality, who cares? The very existence of stories like these is political. Lesbians writing fiction—and writing better all the time, I think—help us nonfictional lesbian readers to love each other in a world that tends to hate us. They help us to remember, when the going gets tough and love's a battlefield and there is unrequited everywhere, *not* to sublimate.

(WARNING: There are two young, white women with lingerie on the cover, feigning passion. If you can get past them, the stories should be easy.) □

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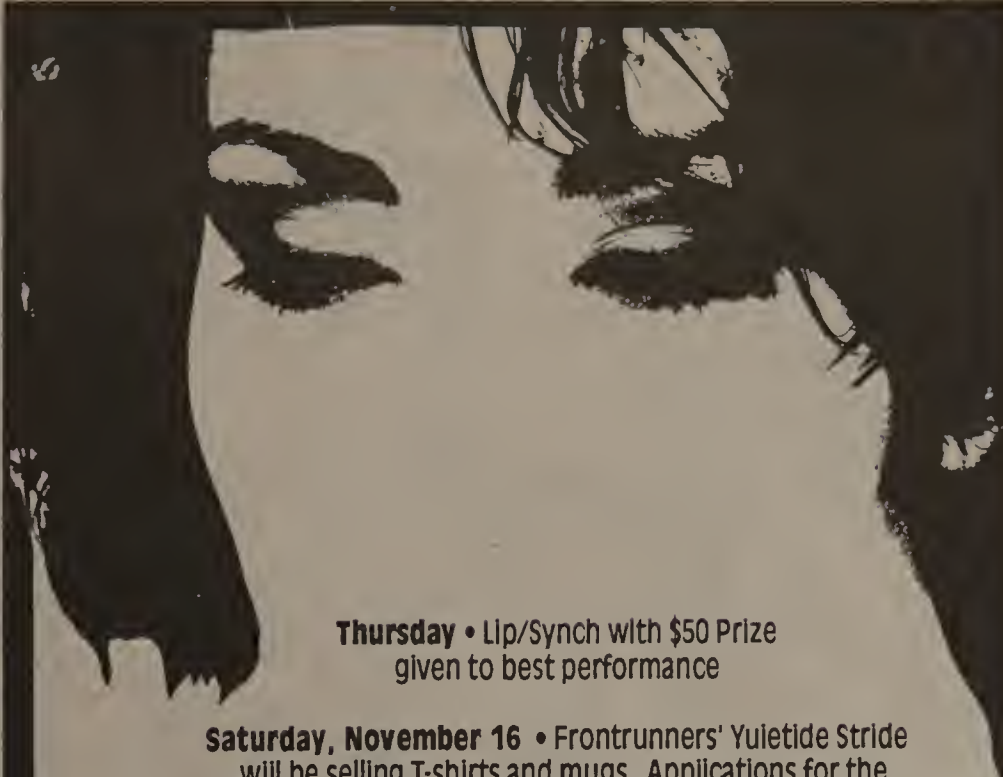
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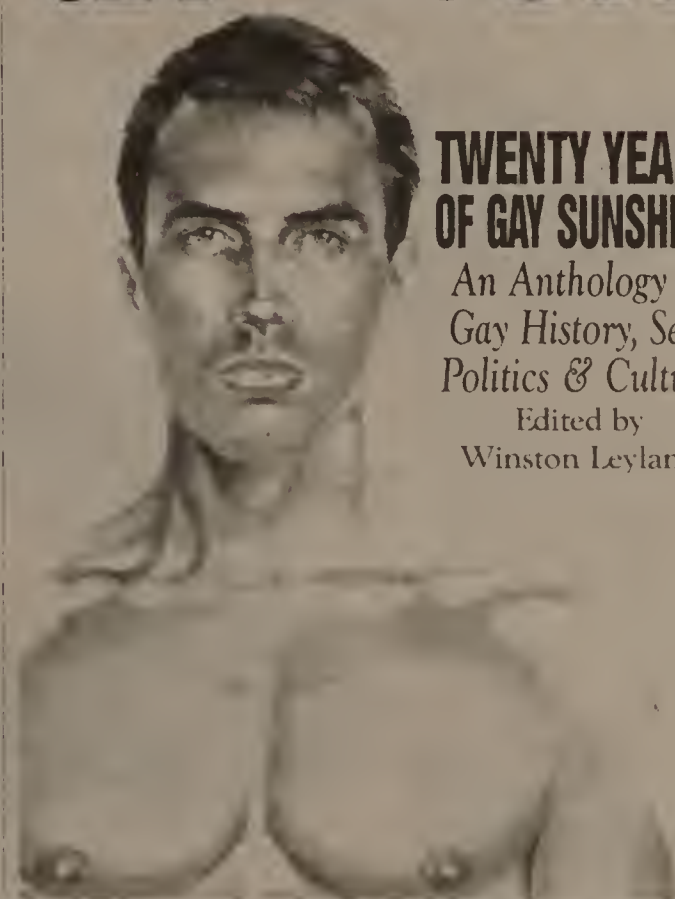
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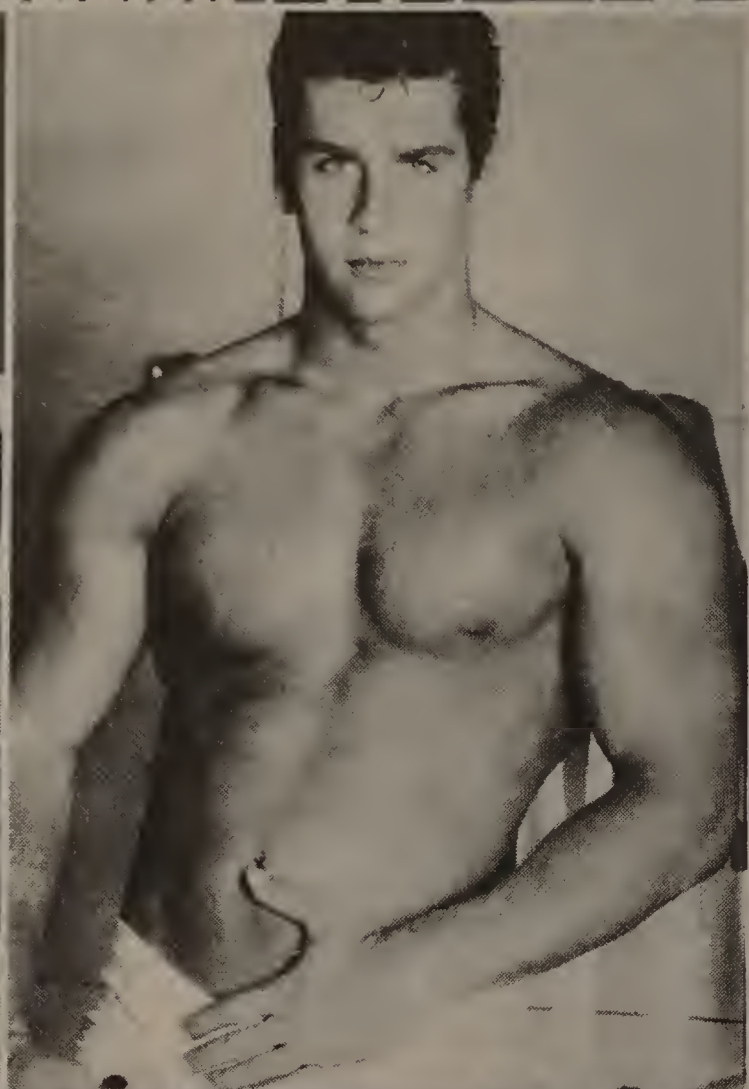


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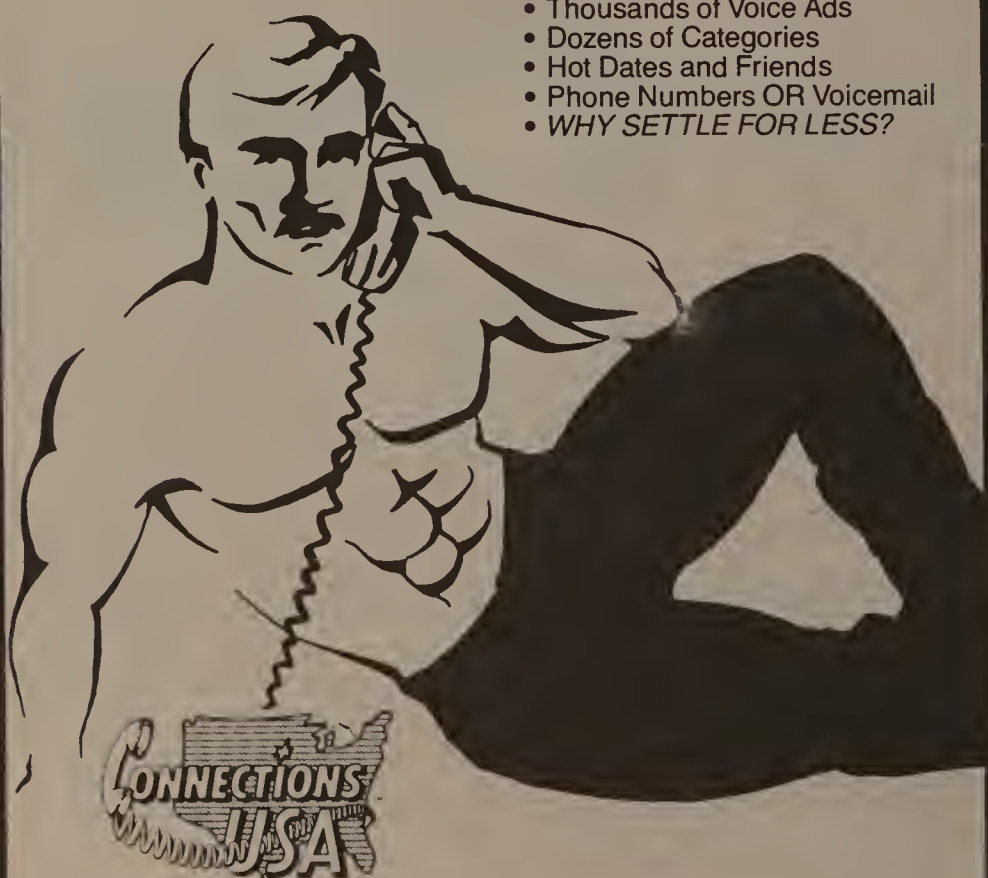
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National social change foundation seeks highly motivated individual to coordinate all aspects of fundraising. Needs experience with individual donors, particularly major gift solicitation, excellent writing skills, and management experience. Competitive salary, benefits. Women, people of color, gay men and lesbians encouraged to apply. Deadline: December 1, 1991. Starting date flexible. For job description, or to apply, write: Funding Exchange, 666 Broadway, #500, New York, NY 10012. (18)

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PERSONALS

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IS THIS THE RIGHT PLACE

for a GWM, 72, living on the southeast coast, well-educated, politically left, still clicking, works part time, owns his own home, to find himself a mate? If you're venturesome, your letter will get one from me. GCN Box 135 (23)

Gay man—kind, honest, witty, *out*—looking for same for monogamous relationship. I'm 31 and spend lots of time swimming, reading, writing, going to museums, listening to music—especially Beethoven, Bartók, Coltrane and contemporary experimentalists. I'm a vegetarian, my politics to the left, and I'm active in the gay and lesbian community. To me, the only important part of your ethnicity and religion is that you're proud of them. Idiosyncrasies are highly encouraged. Your response will surely beget mine. GCN Box 901.

MADE IN GERMANY

German GM, new in town, seeks real friends for talking, listening, movies, dining, fun and other social events. I am 33,6'1", brown hair and moustache. Call 262-1297

We knew Zhang in China '87-'88, a closeted Chinese gay man (government says gays don't exist). Desperately wants to come to U.S., geology gradschool. We are raising money for him. Please help or write. Franny, Friends of Zhang, Box 1601, Brookline, MA 02146 (23)

Wanted: pal for slow and easy mirror J.O., muscle comparisons, even kinky scenes like self S/M. "No" inhibitions; physical contact not, per se. Me: Mid '30's, BB, cut; you: muscled, uncut. Smokers, et cetera A+++. Photoll GCN Box 923

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUTWRITE '92 IN BOSTON

OutWrite '92 Planning Committee seeks eager beavers and diligent domo homos to serve on conference working groups. OutWrite '92, the national lesbian and gay writer's conference, will be here March 20-22, 1992 in Boston and will be co-sponsored by *Out/Look* and *Gay Community News*.

Radio/Cable for/about us. Send \$1 & SASE for program list to John Zeh, 1455 Chapin St. NW, Washington, DC 20009-4510

SAVE THE CATS

Desperately seeking home for 2 adult female (spayed) Himalayans. Affectionate and lovable and free. Must give up for health reasons—mine, not theirs. Help! They don't deserve the Animal Shelter. 242-4807. (15)

Forthcoming Canadian anthology: *Bloodlines: Writings by Lesbian Sisters*. Send writing about you and your lesbian sister(s) and/or queries to: Jan & Lynn Andrews, Editors, P.O. Box 4273, Stn. E, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1S 5B3—before January 31st, 1992. (16)

SERVICES

The Friendship Club is designed to provide other physically challenged gay people, who are stuck indoors, with some outside stimulation. Write D.G. Barnet Yocht, 3287 Gillespie St., Sacramento, Calif. 95838. (916) 921-1413. (21)

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BROCKTON AREA

Professional GM seeks roommate to share 2-bedroom home. New kitchen, W/W, A/C, DW, W/D, security deposit and references. (508) 238-9753 (15)

QUEER CAMBRIDGEPORT COOP

We're looking for wimmin, women or girlz for mixed dyke/fag home. Our fabulously beautiful longstanding co-op is conveniently located in a safe, friendly neighborhood. Five minutes from red line. 864-1466

EAST ARLINGTON—WALK TO T

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BRIGHAM CIRCLE HARVARD MED AREA

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WALK TO RIVER & RED LINE

GM, SF, SM seek F, 25+ for Cambridgeport semi-coop home. Share warmth, humor, left & feminist politics, food, some meals. W/D, deck, porch, 1 cat, no more please. No smoke. \$305+. Available now. 354-6740. (14)

BIG HOUSE/SEMI-COOP

in Cambridgeport, near T. imagine-your very own big, sunny room and study for the low price of \$286! (only one condition- you must be a responsible/fun LF) 2 LF's with a dog & a cat await your call, evenings at 661-6771. (hrsh)

PONDSIDE J.P.

3 LF's seek 4th for big beautiful apt. Friendly, independent house; porches, w/d, parking. Two rooms of your own wired for private phone. No smokers, no pets. \$365+. Avail. Nov. or Dec. 1. 522-9760 (16)

SOBER ROOMMATE WANTED 12/1

GM 28 and friendly housecat seek L or GM to share spacious apt. on Cambridge/Belmont line. Near bus. 7 min. ride to Harvard Sq. No alcohol/drugs/"trick traffic." I am smoker (cigs. OK). 12-steppers esp. welcome. Call Michael 484-1389 leave msg. \$325 plus 1/2 util. (17)

ALLSTON

4 Queer Ls seeking 2 more to share sober, semi-coop, no hassle household. Near T and bus. 230 and 254/mnth + util. 254-0448 (16)

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Articulate, easy going, nature loving, 29-year-old gay male looking for similar person to correspond with, in jail for a short period on a fraud case. I am an equal opportunity "fag." Please write Dwayne Brown 30966-060, P.O. Box 9000, Seagville, Texas 75159. Sorry, can't write other prisoners.

GWM 30 years old, feminine, looking for friends and a man. My name is Sunshine, I have long hair and I am quiet, shy and full of love for someone. My interests include: dressing up, cooking, movies, camping, hiking, sports, reading, writing and making new friends. I do *not* need money or material things, all I want is your friendship. I *can* receive mail from other prisoners. All answered! Terry L. Barkley, #173128, Chippewa Regional CRC Facility, 4535 West Tone Rd. Kincheloe, Mich. 49784-0001

Does anyone know of any legal or non-fiction book that cites state laws nationwide and internationally of sex laws regarding different age groups? Could you give me the title and the cost and where I could purchase it? Eddie Risdal, #802094, Box 316, Fort Madison, IA 52627

I am 31 y.o., brown hair, brown eyes, 6'3, 200 lbs. Solid. Looking for sincere person for meaningful relationship. Blue Simon #138958, Box 97, McAlester, OK 74502. Soon to be released.

I am a gay prisoner who is undergoing a lot of physical and emotional harassment due to my sexual preference. I will write to anyone of any age or race if they want to write, gay or straight, male or female. I am 6'2, 190 lbs, brn hair, blue eyes, born 04-11-54. Rohn W. Barret, C26071, P.O. Box #1902B, 7C-201, Calif. Correctional Institution 4-B, Tehachapi, Calif. 93581

I am Black and in prison. I need someone that I can write to, I don't have any contact with the free world. Edward Boykin #117785, Holmak P.O. Box 34, Atmore, Alabama, 36503

Is there a handsome Black man out there? I am a Black gay and in need of good love. I just love sucking on a good and hard dick and love licking all around my lover's dick. Please send me a hard-on photo of yourself. Hugs and kisses to all of you. Odis Lee Johns, Jr. 1316 Graham Dr., Bryon, Texas, 77803-1323

GWM, 27, 5'9, 195 lbs., bld. haz. eyes, tattooed body builder, looking for slim passive male for monogamous relationship. Sentence expires Sept '92, Michael Rivera #19457, P.O. Box 1989 Ely, NV, 89301

I would like a pen pal interested in developing a long-term friendship. I have six more years to do and need some companionship. My interests include prisoners' rights, Wicca, theology, and chess. I am currently enrolled in the prison college program. Please write Phil Bates #7306342, 3405 Deer Park Dr. SE, Salem, OR 97319.

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Alexander Berkman,

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Calling Colorado, would like any and all info on prison system. BMW into books, country music, writing, letter gets letter, too much time to play game. Larry D. Airington, #379390, Rt. 1, Box 150, Tenn. Colony, 75884

Being the person I am its hard for me to talk honestly to people here because the other men would try to take advantage of me. So I find myself even more alone. Doing this time is hard enough but the most frightening part of this whole ordeal is the loneliness. Ron Witt, C-55377, B-8-105, PO Box 7500, Crescent City, Calif. 95532

GWM, 27, good looking, wants pen pals from the free world. I will be released in February '92. My interests include sex (lots of it) computers and sports. Will answer all. Robert Graham, 83219-OK, 3600 Guard Road, Lompock, CA, 93436

I'm 24 years old and have blonde hair and blue eyes, I'm 6 ft. I'm seeking a friend or relationship. I'm full of laughs and respectful and very understanding! I like all music and games. Please write. Lloyd Nelson #15324, Potosi Correctional Center, Rt. 2, Box 2222, 3-13-10, Mineral Point, Mo. 6366)

GWM 35 looking to correspond with someone. I enjoy reading, writing, drawing and health! Have a few years to go until release. All answered, write! Paul J. Faulkner, #10356-OH, P.O. Box 137, Tillery, N.C., 27887

Solid bro' with his head to the wind and his feet chained to prison bars too long...will hopefully catch freedom soon. I'm searching for a feminine, discreet male lover who enjoys a strong, no-nonsense man who is sensitive, smart and passionate. You must have plenty of heart and a wild zest for living to the fullest. Johnny Blue Merrit, #133720, N398, PO Box 1000, Craigsville, Virginia, 24430

I wish to correspond with gay individuals on the outside who might be interested and with some idea of how lonely life can be behind these old prison walls. I'm 33, 5'10, 175 lbs. I'd prefer hearing from so individuals with enlightening ideas both political and personal. Terry E. Glover, #109096, Holman Unit, P.O. Box 37, Atmore, Alabama, 36503-0037

27 yr. old Bi male, 6'2, 190 lbs. Very sincere and true-blue. A nature lover. Brown hair, brown eyes, non-smoker, non-drug user. Very athletic. Seeking intimacy through correspondence. Up for parole soon, will answer all. Michael Goud, #88A2585, Auburn Corr. Facility, Auburn, N.Y., 13021

I'm 18 y.o. Bi male, doing time for foolish crime. Those I was with have left me all on my own. I'd like to meet someone who for once in my life I can trust. If that is possible? If you are that someone—write me. Paul Costello, #9613131, H.C. 63, P.O. Box 5000, Clallam Bay, Wash. 98326

Lonely red-headed boy needs friendly letters. 6', 185 lbs., 24 y.o., blue-grey eyes; handsome as the devil! I'm a lover not a fighter. Write: Mike Romine, 7009635, 2605 State St., Salem, OR 97310-0505

Calendar

12 Tuesday, Cambridge ♦ Olivia Records presents the area premiere of "The Changer: A Record of the Times," a visual tapestry rich in recollection of the women who made musical history. The Brattle, 40 Brattle St., Harvard Sq. Call theatre for showtimes and ticket info, 876-6837.

Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos encouraged! Please specify if event is or is not wheelchair accessible and/or sign language interpreted. Please use our format as a guide for listings, including time, date, place, and a contact person. All listings must be typed. Please note that listings are printed only as space allows; we regret that we cannot print every submission. Phone numbers listed are in the 617 area code, and cities are in Massachusetts, unless otherwise noted.

9 SATURDAY

Boston ♦ "Dancing In Time", third annual dance-a-thon to benefit AIDS ACTION Committee. 6-11 pm in the Ballroom of the Hynes Convention Center. Info: 266-6906.

Jamaica Plain ♦ Cattle Curtis In concert. A Gay Community News benefit. 8 pm at Crone's Harvest, 761 Centre St. Info: 983-9530.

Dorchester ♦ The Strand Theatre and Mike Kalkski presents "Camp Logan", 8:00 pm \$12 (\$8 for children, students and seniors). Info: 282-8000.

Allston ♦ "Classic Films-Drug Propaganda" featuring "Assassin of Youth" (1935), Maya Deren's "Meshes of The Afternoon" (1943), Education/Propaganda Shorts at The Primal Plunge, 107 Brighton Ave. Info: Patrick McCabe 547-7320 or the Plunge 787-1318. \$5.

10 SUNDAY

Boston ♦ "We Are All Veterans," James C. Casteris will speak at The Community Church of Boston Community Church Center, 565 Boylston St. (Copley Square). 11:00 am. Free.

Jamaica Plain ♦ Leslea Newman, author of "Sweet, Dark Places," will be reading & signing her work at Crone's Harvest. 3-5 pm.

Waltham ♦ Way Out in Waltham (WOW) sponsors a brunch. Info: (617) 893-0742 or 893-0361.

New York ♦ PFLAG's 11th Annual Awards Dinner Dance. The Roosevelt Hotel, 45 East 45th Street. 5:00 p.m. Info: (718) 426-3249 (evenings).

New Hampshire ♦ Cannon Mt. Loop Hike, 7.25 mile hike to peak of Cannon Mt. Be prepared for winter conditions. Call Mike for details at (603) 644-7658.

Boston ♦ New England Association of Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Psychologists monthly meeting. Lesbian & Gay Service Center, 338 Newbury St. 10 am - 12 noon. Info: (617) 969-0365.

11 MONDAY

Wellesley ♦ Interfaith Service of Remembrance and Hope. Houghton Memorial Chapel. Wellesley College. 12:30 - 1 pm. 12:45 Two minute Campus-wide Silence marked by playing of carillon. Info: 235-0320 ext. 2051.

12 TUESDAY

Jamaica Plain ♦ Louise Wisechild, author of the "Obsidian Mirror" and "She Who is Lost is Remembered," will be reading & signing her work. All women welcome. Please respect women's space. 7:30 pm.

Cambridge ♦ Olivia Records presents the area premiere of "The Changer: A Record of the Times," a visual tapestry rich in recollection of the women who made musical history. The Brattle, 40 Brattle St., Harvard Sq. Call theatre for showtimes and ticket info, 876-6837.

Northampton ♦ Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Community Meeting. 7:00 pm. Wright Hall, Smith College, "Report on Pride Events and Organizational Structure from Around the Country." Wheelchair accessible/ASL interpreters available.

Lincoln ♦ Healing Service for all affected by AIDS. 7:30 pm. St. Anne's In-The-Fields, 147 Concord Road (Route 126). Info: (617) 628-7665.

Boston ♦ Star Share, a fundraising program to benefit the Elizabeth Stone House, through Nov. 14. Five percent of total purchase will be donated by Star Market to the Stone House. Info: 522-3417.

13 WEDNESDAY

Boston ♦ "Coping with the Holidays" at the Paulist Center, 5 Park Street. 7:00 pm. Sponsored by the AIDS Outreach Group of the Paulist Center. Info: (617) 742-4460.

Cambridge ♦ Cambridge Lavender Alliance invites all gay men, lesbians and bisexuals to Cambridge to the next general meeting. 7-9 pm. Cambridge Rindge & Latin School, Media Cafeteria. Info: 876-3874, or 868-1693.

Cambridge ♦ "A League of Their Own" and "Tiny Ruby." 7:00 pm. The Powers Room, The Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe College. Info: 497-4037.

Amherst ♦ Intro to Anti-Ableism. Bangs Community Center. Wheelchair accessible. Smoke-free space. No pets, perfumes or scents allowed. 12:30 - 2:30. Free. To register and more info: (413) 323-5088 voice. (203) 397-2381 tty/voice.

14 THURSDAY

Portland, ME ♦ Dr. Marvin Ellison: Professor of Christian Ethics and Director of Theological Studies, Bangor Theological Seminary. 7:30 pm, third floor conference room, Portland Public Library.

Boston ♦ Robert Hilferty to screen "Stop the Church." Museum of Fine Arts Anderson Auditorium. Noon - 2 pm. Info: 267-6100 ext. 659.

Boston ♦ Guillermo Gomez Pena in his new work

"1991" (The Rediscovery of America by the Warrior for Gringostolka) Part II of the "1992" Trilogy. ICA, 955 Boylston Street. 8 pm. Member \$12, \$14 for general public. Info: 266-5152 or 266-5153.

Boston ♦ "Women on Women: How do women in the media cover women in politics and women's issues?" at the YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. 7:00 pm, \$5 donation suggested. Refreshments. Info: 552-4435.

Quincy ♦ "Whatever Happened to Joe?" film at Mass Bay Counseling, 44 Billings Road. 7:00 pm. Call now to reserve place 786-0137.

15 FRIDAY

Boston ♦ Parent support workshops for parents in multiracial families. \$10-\$12 per session. Childcare is available at nominal fee. To register, call Families First at The Children's Museum: (617) 426-6500 x272.

Brookline ♦ Am Tikva will hold Shabbat Services at 8 pm at Workmen's Circle, 1762 Beacon Street. Bring something sweet/dairy/veggie to share at our oneg. Info: 926-2536.

Boston ♦ Publication party for *Putting on the Ritz*, author Joe Keenan. Glad Day Bookshop. 673 Boylston St. 4-6 pm. Info: 267-3010.

Cambridge ♦ A Celebration of Gay Culture: Light From a New Torch, as part of the Center's Changing Views of Gender and Identity Series. 8 pm. Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle Street, Harvard Square. \$4.00. Info: (617) 547-6789.

Cambridge ♦ Women's Liberation: What Strategy to Win? Spartacus Youth Club Forum. Harvard Yard, Harvard University, Emerson 305. 7:30 pm Free. Info: (617) 492-3928.

16 SATURDAY

Boston ♦ "2 In 20" appearing at The Center, 338 Newbury St. 7:00 pm. Suggested donation of \$6.00. Info: 247-2927.

Jamaica Plain ♦ Midnight Snack In concert at Crone's Harvest.

Norton ♦ Triboro Triangles sponsors a buffet and dance. \$7.00. RSVP by Nov. 9. P.O.Box 2751, Attleboro Falls, MA 02763. Info: 247-2927.

New Hampshire ♦ Chiltern Annual Meeting. Potluck, slideshow and outdoor events. Call Peter at (617) 623-1584 or Liz at (617) 625-2689.

Allston ♦ Please join Rugg Road Arts District for its Fifth Annual Open Studio. Meet the artists and see a wide spectrum of expressive and functional art forms. 12 noon-6 pm. 30-32 Rugg Road & 119 Braintree Street. Info: 783-4367.

17 SUNDAY

Marlboro ♦ WOBBLES (West of Boston Lesbians) will be traveling in elite social circles - that is, we'll be skating 'round the rink at Roller Kingdom In Hudson. Contact Janis at (508) 386-7737 or write P.O. Box 292, Marlboro, MA 01752 for details.

Boston ♦ Brotherhood Feast. Sponsored for the third year by Leather & Lace, Inc. To benefit P.W.A.'s. Turkey dinner with friends & all the trimmings. 6:00 pm. Ticket donation \$5.00. Info: (617) 322-6318 or (617) 322-8062.

Albany ♦ Planning meeting for Jewish feminist gathering. Albany Public Library, Main Branch. 1 pm. Info: 355-9921.

Boston ♦ "Dyke-Marten" Night at Venus Rising. Wear your Dr. Martens get In Free, w/o Dr. Martens admission \$3. Dr. Marten give away, go-go girls, videos, music & dancing till 2 am. 11 Lansdowne St. Info: (617) 421-9595. A 19+ event.

New York ♦ Celebrate the tenth anniversary of the New York Chapter of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF). Join Phil Donahue, Mario Thomas and ABC newscaster Peter Jennings; human rights activists Bella Abzug, Coretta Scott King, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Gloria Steinem, Elle Wiesel, Barney Frank and Gerry Studds. Harvey Fierstein will serve as master of ceremonies. 65th floor, 30 Rockefeller Center. 6:30 pm cocktail reception, 7:30 buffet dinner. Info: (212) 769-2610.

Metrowest ♦ GALA - a neighborhood group for gays, lesbians and bisexuals. Potluck/games night. 5:00 pm. Info: (508) 881-7931.

Boston ♦ "1492-1992: Some Americans Have Precious Little to Celebrate." Rev. Jack Mendelsohn. The Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St. (Copley Square). 11 am.

18 MONDAY

Boston ♦ For Gay & Lesbian Parents. Parent support workshop at the Children's Museum. 300 Congress Street. Fees range between \$10-12 per session. Childcare is available at a nominal fee. To register, call Families First at The Children's Museum: (617) 426-6500 x272.

Wellesley ♦ Studio Art Paper Prayers. Corridor, ground floor of Pendleton West, Wellesley College. Info: 235-0320 ext. 2051.

19 TUESDAY

Northampton ♦ Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Community Meeting. Wright Hall, Smith College. "Do we continue to have Pride Events? Who decides? How do we decide?" Wheelchair accessible/ ASL interpreters available. 7 pm.

20 WEDNESDAY

Boston ♦ "AIDS, HIV & the Dental Professional."



Topics will include Recognition, Diagnosis and Treatment of Oral Manifestations of HIV Disease, Infection Control and Universal Precautions in the Dental Setting. Legal and Ethical Issues. \$75 which includes lunch and refreshments. Info: Cynthia Rothschild 437-6200 ext. 317. To register: Wayne Kaufman 437-6200 ext. 314.

Wellesley ♦ Day Without Art 1991. Blackboard goes up in Corridor Gallery, Wellesley College Museum. Info: 235-0320 ext. 2051.

Boston ♦ A Supper Forum. The Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston Street (Copley Square). "Cries of the People: A Humanist Is Drawn to Central America" with Janice Turkaln. 6:30 pm. \$3.00. Forum 7:45 pm - free. Please reserve supper by calling the Church office at 266-6710 by Nov. 19.

Springfield ♦ Addressing Disabilities. In recognition of AIDS Awareness Month, a public education seminar will be held on Wednesday, October 30, in Room 233. Locklin Hall on the Springfield College campus from 7-9 pm. A panel of presenters will discuss "AIDS Coalition: What We Need to Know and Do." All seminars are free and open to the public. Lighted parking is available and wheelchair accessible by elevator. Contact James E. Genascl (413) 788-3221.

Boston ♦ The Greater Boston Business Council, Boston's Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, will feature a program on discrimination. Cocktails and networking begin at 6 pm. Dinner at 7 pm. Cherrystone's Restaurant, 100 Atlantic Avenue, Boston Harbor. Members \$15, non-members and guests \$22. Info: 446-7872.

Boston ♦ Celebrity Coat Auction to Benefit Salvation Army. Need ideas for one-of-a-kind holiday gifts? How about a coat off the back of Whoopi Goldberg, Steve Martin or Susan Sarandon? Fundraising Auction. 7 pm - 12 am. Tickets are \$75. Info: 542-3032.

21 THURSDAY

Jamaica Plain ♦ Betsy Sakind performs at Crone's Harvest. 8 pm.

Quincy ♦ "Under the Influence." Mass Bay Counseling, 44 Billings Road. 7 pm. Call now to reserve place (617) 786-0137.

22 FRIDAY

Amherst ♦ Independence, Dependence, Co-dependence and Interdependence. Advanced workshop. 7-9 pm. Bangs Community Center. Wheelchair accessible. Smoke-free space. No pets, perfumes, or scents allowed. Free. To register and more info: (413) 323-5088 voice. (203) 397-2381 tty/voice.

Jamaica Plain ♦ Open Mic with Sharon Sue Kleinman. Music, poetry, comedy. 7:30 pm. Call to sign up. (617) 983-9529.

Boston ♦ For Parents & Others Touched by Adoption. Parent support workshop at The Children's museum. 300 Congress St. Fees range between \$10-12 per session. Childcare is available at a nominal fee. To register, call Families First at The Children's Museum: (617) 426-6500 x272.

Boston ♦ "An Evening for Pet Owners with HIV." At the Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St. Wheelchair accessible. Sponsored by FCHC's Living Well Series and The Boston Living Center. Free. No registration required. Info: 267-0900 x287.

Boston ♦ The Boston Gay Men's Chorus sponsors the third in its series of monthly fifth sectional open houses. 8-10 pm. At the Center, 338 Newbury Street, Room 204. Refreshments will be served. A \$2.00 donation is requested. Info: (617) 247-BGMC.

New York ♦ Lesbian movie night at The Center, 208 W 13th St. *DIANA's Hair Ego* by Ellen Spiro, *(In)visible Women* by Marina Alvarez & Ellen Spiro and *Her Giveaway* by Mona Smith. 8 pm. \$6 donation (more if less II). Info: (212) 620-7310.

Boston ♦ *Live and In Chocolate*. A one woman show with actress Phyllis Stickney who worked with Spike Lee on his recent film *Jungle Fever*. Proceeds go to the "Save the Family" Foundation which helps women and children at risk. 8 pm. \$15.50 Adv., \$20.50 DOS. Info: 327-8391.

Boston ♦ "Only Angels Have Wings." Friday Night Video Series at the G/L Center, 338 Newbury St., 2nd fl. 7:00. \$2 suggested donation.

SATURDAYS

Boston ♦ "Two-Steppin' for AIDS" Texas Two-stepping and line dancing for the HIV positive community and their friends. At the Boston Living Center, YWCA, 140 Clarendon St., 7th fl. Third Saturdays, 7:00-12:00pm. Donations go to direct services for people with AIDS. Info: 236-1012.

Cambridge ♦ Single Mothers' Support Group. Free drop-in group with child care, alternate Saturdays. Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 11am-12:30 p.m. 354-8807.

Jamaica Plain ♦ Women's Coffeehouse. 8 p.m. Crone's Harvest, 761 Centre St. \$5 suggested donation. 983-9530.

Boston ♦ BLOW, Boston's Leathermen On Wheels. New social club for gay motorcyclists. Contact Steve at 338 Newbury St, 2nd floor. 247-2927.

Jamaica Plain ♦ NEGAL sponsors contra, and square traditional dances for the gay, lesbian and bisexual communities. No experience required. All dances are taught. 1st Unitarian Church, Center & Elliot St. 8 pm. Info: Janet (617) 522-2216 or Phil

(617) 729-9206.

Cambridge ♦ Open discussion on coming out for women of all ages. Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 11 am-1 pm. Women's writing group noon-2 pm. Info: (617) 354-8807.

SUNDAYS

Boston ♦ Boston Alliance of G/L Youth (BAGLY) Drop-In Center. St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin. (800) 42BAGLY.

Boston ♦ Work Issues Support Group. 2 to 4 p.m. G/L Comm. Ctr., 338 Newbury St.

Boston ♦ Boston Strikers Soccer Club. Weekly novice and club scrimmages. All levels. 3 p.m. Info: Erik 423-0929 or Jeff 876-7612.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Sports. Magazine Field, Memorial Dr. Spons. by DOB. Softball 4 to 6 p.m.; volleyball 6 p.m. 'til dark. \$1. Info: Steph 625-9551.

Boston ♦ Narcotics Anonymous. LGM. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 8 p.m. 247-2927.

Boston ♦ The Gay Dating Show, WUNR 1600AM. 10:30 pm-2:30 a.m.

Boston ♦ Different Strokes Swim Team. Coached work-outs for swimmers of all abilities. 10:15. Info: 524-5395 or 267-8504.

MONDAYS

Boston ♦ New Support Group for Recovering Women with HIV/AIDS. Sponsored by Women, Inc. Call Magda or Christine for a screening interview 442-6166. **Dorchester ♦ Alcoholics Anonymous.** First Parish Church, Mtg. Hs. Hill. Beginners 6:30, hardhats 8 p.m.

Cable TV ♦ "Between Takes." Often a g/l slant on events. Boston A3 Mondays 9:30 p.m. Cambridge CCTV Thursdays 8:30 p.m. Rhode Island Interconnect A Fridays 8:30 p.m. Other areas: check listings.

Cambridge ♦ Pride Time, the cable TV program for the Boston area gay, lesbian and bisexual community broadcasts at 7 pm on Channel 19.

Boston ♦ Peer-led group for HIV+ gay and bisexual men of color. Meets at The Boston Living Center. 7:30 pm. Info: 437-6200 ext. 299.

TUESDAYS

Providence, RI ♦ ACT UP/Rhode Island. Call for meeting place (401) 461-4191.

Gloucester ♦ Healing Circle / Positively Clean and Sober. Healing circle 6:30 to 8 p.m., open to anyone facing chronic or life-threatening illness. Pos. C&S 8 to 9 p.m., for people living with HIV and dealing with subst. abuse issues. N. Shore AIDS Project, 19 Pleasant St. (508) 283-0101.

Framingham ♦ The Framingham Regional Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. at The Civic League Building, 214 Concord St. Open to youth age 22 and under. Info: write F.R.A.G.L.Y., P.O. Box 426, Framingham, Ma. 01701.

Boston ♦ ACT UP/Boston. The Living Center, YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. 7 p.m. 49-ACTUP.

Cambridge ♦ Bisexual Women's Rap. Topic: 11/12 "How to find a lover." 11/19 Film: "Kiss of the Spiderwoman." The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7-8:30. 354-8807.

WEDNESDAYS

Boston ♦ Women In the Building Trades will be offering free introductory workshops. 6:00-8:00pm from 10/30-12/4. At 555 Amory St. Call 524-3010 to pre-register or for info.

Boston ♦ Jamaica Plain PWA Peer Group. First Church Unitarian Universalist, Centre St. 7:30 pm. Info: 436-2054.

Cambridge ♦ Job search support group. Cambridge Women's Center. 6:30-8:30 pm. Info: 354-8807.

Boston ♦ Boston Alliance of G/L Youth (BAGLY). Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. New persons' meeting 6p.m.; women and men meet separately 6:45 to 7:30; general meeting 7:30p.m. (800) 42BAGLY.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Al-Anon. Wheelchair accessible. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30 to 8 p.m. 354-8807.

THURSDAYS

Boston ♦ The Boston Monthly HIV Medical Update. 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30pm. John Hancock Conference Center, 40 Trinity Place (near Copley green and Back Bay/South End Orange T stations). Info: 262-3456.

Boston ♦ Boston Area Rape Crisis Center drop-in group for women who have been raped. 492-RAPE.

Portsmouth, NH ♦ Out and About. A lesbian social and support group. Info: Keryn (603) 749-5852.

FRIDAYS

Boston ♦ GCN Friday Night Stuffing Party. Come stuff the paper, eat pizza, and make new friends. GCN, 62 Berkeley St. 5 p.m. 426-4469.

Cambridge ♦ Incest Survivors Anonymous. Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30 - 8 pm. Info: (617) 354-8807.



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